EAST BAY EXPRESS

JULY 4-10, 2012 · THE EAST BAY'S INDEPENDEN LY SINCE 1978 · EXPRESS.COM

Slashing Democracy

Florida's attempt to scrub the voter rolls is un-American.
~~Five~~ Five good reasons why you should care about it.

By Billy Manes & Erin Sullivan

How Realistic is 'Savages'? Not at all, but Legalization Nation goes ahead and fact-checks Oliver Stone's new weedy, ultra-violent cartel flick. **pg. 9**

Oakland Police Commission Faces Obstacles City regulations and state law preclude an independent commission from shining a light on police misconduct and meting out discipline **pg. 10**

Food for the People In an unlikely corner of West Oakland, FuseBOX serves inventive Korean and Japanese bar bites — at working-class prices. **pg. 28**

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On the Cover *Illustration by Brian Kelly*

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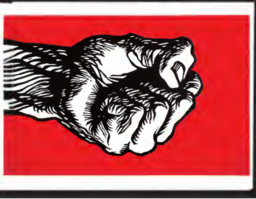

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[illegible] Frank Cieciorka, Untitled, Circa 1968. Screen print, 35 x 23 in.
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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
Turning Pot into Medicine

LETTERS

[illegible]

Stop the Cynicism

In this article [former legal adviser to Jean Quan] Dan Siegel commented that it was dangerous to have the inspector general reporting to [City Administrator] Deanna Santana. His cynical remark I found overly negative. I have no doubt that if the inspector general's office is moved into the city administrator's office, there will be many corrective meetings between Ms. Santana's lips and the OPD butts; she just needs a chance to do what she does best. Shame on you, Dan, for your lack of confidence in Oakland's (very) remarkable government.

James J. Fenton, Oakland

[illegible]

A Deal's a Deal

Thank you for shedding some light on the wilderness part of this issue, which has been diverted by Drakes Bay Oyster Company and Feinstein to a supposed debate about "good" science. Many of us who live in west Marin support wilderness for Drakes Estero and are sick of the oyster farm and Feinstein's endless fabricated smear campaign against the park service. We want to see the oyster operation pack up and go, as its management agreed to do when they bought the remaining lease seven years ago. A deal is a deal. This is an important estuary and wilderness area, and commercial operations that spread invasive species (none of their oysters are native) are incompatible. The public overwhelmingly wants the operation gone and full protection for the estuary.

Jeff Miller, Inverness

Shucks for You, Salazar

I think Robert Gammon's article is excellent, and it confirms my belief that Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar should honor the enabling legislation and terminate the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease.

Point Reyes may have been a cultural landscape for 150 years (actually, it's been one for thousands of years, not forgetting the Miwoks and their likely predecessors) but it's always been a natural landscape — and the California public is running low on those what with state parks closing and the cultural landscape's relentless expansion. What's more, it is a natural landscape that is essential to one of the planet's main megafaunas — the Pacific coast marine mammals. I doubt there would be elephant seals breeding on Drakes Bay now if the seashore hadn't been established as a way to restore some of the wildlife that has been destroyed in so many other places. Point Reyes would be covered with second homes, monster homes, bedroom tracts, marinas, malls, etc. — a process that was already underway when David Brower, Phil Burton, Edgar Wayburn, and many others managed to win one of life's all-too-uncommon victories over money.

Drakes Bay was a major sea otter habitat when Western civilization arrived — it's where the Yankee fur hunting ships anchored. I'd like to see sea otters in Drakes Bay again. The river otter was "extinct" on the seashore twenty years ago — now it's back, so why not the sea otter? But I don't think the oyster farm's continuation would contribute to that — maybe the contrary, since I suppose sea otters like oysters, although they might not be too enthusiastic about the Drakes Bay ones, which are fatty and rather tasteless in my experience. Plenty of oyster farms in legally designated cultural landscapes produce better ones.

Anyway, it's up to Secretary Salazar now. His address, by the way, is 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240 or Feedback@ios.doi.gov

David Rains Wallace, Berkeley

An Oyster Farmer Weighs in

I am an oyster farmer in Morro Bay. I used to live in Bodega Bay, and I got to visit beautiful Drakes Estero a few times back when the Johnsons ran the farm. I have a natural sympathy for other oyster growers here in California and Drakes Estero is the best oyster-growing bay in California, so I have been alarmed at the predicament that the Lunnys are in. I know what a beautiful place the estero is. Reading your thorough article I learned a lot about the controversy and I had several thoughts.

First, the dispute seems to center on whether or not the original agreement between the Johnsons and the park service was to allow renewal of the oyster lease when it expires or not. You seem to believe that it was clear to all at the outset that the lease would not be renewed, while the Lunnys say the agreement did not preclude lease renewal. In attempting to settle this dispute, I think that retired Congressman Pete McCloskey's testimony is especially weighty since he co-authored the Pt. Reyes wilderness act. And he states clearly that it was not the intent of the law to kick the oyster grower out in 2012.

Second, how important is it really to

have this estero be a wilderness area with no shellfish cultivation? The shellfish cultivation leases from the Department of Fish and Game only give the grower the right to plant, tend, and harvest the shellfish. They do not preclude the public from kayaking over the oysters, exploring, and enjoying the estero. You just can't take or harm the oysters. If you have legitimate environmental concerns, such as plastic oyster-growing debris on the beach, or actual threats to the seal population, then the oyster grower has to, by law and by their lease agreements, address these concerns. I think the Lunnys will be proactive on these problems. Otherwise, we know that oyster cultivation is generally environmentally benign and good for water quality. I hope the Lunnys can continue growing shellfish on the estero and that the public can continue to enjoy the estero as well, with its rich diversity of birds, fish and invertebrates that coexist alongside the oysters.

George Trevelyan, Cayucos

Dear Dianne

Your article looked me to send an email to Dianne Feinstein, which read roughly as follows:

Thanks to the cover story of *EBX*-June 13-19, I have learned of your folly. How on earth can you be defending an oyster farm that is already operating illegally at the expense of preserving the natural environment?

Think of the greater good for the greatest number in the long term. Your behind-doors under-the-table maneuvering is a disgrace, to you and to the Democratic Party. You sound like a Republican — shape up and fly right.

Concerned California constituent

Marcia Flannery, Oakland

Conservation Over Common Sense

Feinstein is a bum, standing up to the environmentalist fanaticism that has polarized and plagued the west Marin community over this one issue. Many would-be and former supporters of local environment groups, such as the EAC (Environmental Action Committee of West Marin) and the local chapter of the Sierra Club, have been totally turned off and disgusted by their rather rigid and one-dimensional approach to the Drakes Estero Controversy. When the idea of Pt. Reyes National Seashore was being sold to the residents of Marin County in the 1960s, the continued operation of the last oyster farm in the state of California was never in question.

I look forward to a return to common sense environmentalism that is inclusive of many points of view and builds consensus within the community, rather than years of stalemate.

Peter Martinelli, Bolinas

Too Good to Be True

Great article, Ellen.

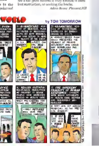
Also, AIPCS' selective admissions/retention methods are not anomalous, but rather appear to be part of the very fabric of the very well-publicized movement to privatize public education via charters school and vouchers.

In New Orleans (and across the nation), we see the same story: One school, given $1 million by Oprah on live TV, was later sued for discriminating against special-needs students (who might drag down scores). This same school — with "amazing scores" — also lost 40 percent of its students by graduation.

Essentially, administrators kept the best students, and dropped those likely to make the school look anything less than a "miracle."

I hope more reporters will take your lead and start to scrutinize these "miracle schools" to see if the great success is truly a result of excellent instruction, or cooking the books.

Adam Bosse, Pleasant Hill


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
HEALTH CARE REFORM GLOSSARY UPDATED
1) HERITAGE FOUNDATION: CONSERVATIVE THINK TANK WHICH PROPOSED MARKET-BASED HEALTH CARE REFORM IN 1989.
SOCIALIZED MEDICINE!
2) ROMNEYCARE: VERSION OF HERITAGE PLAN INSTITUTED IN MASSACHUSETTS BY MITT ROMNEY
I DID WHAT?
MISTAKEN
I LAUGH AT YOUR CLAIMS!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
3) OBAMACARE: VERSION OF ROMNEYCARE EMBRACED BY BARACK OBAMA IN 2009.
A MARKET-BASED PLAN WHICH PRESERVES THE PRIMACY OF PRIVATE INSURERS? HOW COULD ANY REPUBLICAN POSSIBLY OBJECT?
4) OBAMACARE: SOURCE OF MASS HYSTERIA AMONG CONSERVATIVES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.
HE WANTS TO KILL US ALL WITH HIS DEATH PANELS
IT'S STRAIGHT OUT OF THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO!
ARGLE BARGLE BLARGH
5) CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: SURPRISE SWING VOTE UPHOLDING HEALTH CARE REFORM, TO DISMAY OF MANY.
THAT RULING MAKES ME SICK TO MY STOMACH
WELL, AT LEAST YOU'LL HAVE HEALTH CARE FOR THAT
6) HELLISH DYSTOPIA: RIGHT-WING PERCEPTION OF COUNTRY IN WHICH PEOPLE HAVE INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.
WHEN PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS ARE OUTLAWED
ONLY OUTLAWS WILL HAVE PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS
7) THE INHERENT FRAGILITY OF HUMAN EXISTENCE: CONCEPT WITH WHICH OPPONENTS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM ARE SEEMINGLY UNFAMILIAR.
I DON'T HAVE ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT!
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Blame the Politicians, Not the Unions

Valid point that compensation and retirement benefits are not the only cause of the state's fiscal problems. But that is not relevant to California cities and most counties here which don't have the power to give many much corporate welfare or create tax loopholes.

California state employees often earn far less than the same employee would get from a local city or county. Both state and local government employees usually earn more than comparable federal employees. The deal was always that public employees got great benefits, plus much better working conditions, and could retire years earlier than those in private sector jobs.

Sometime during the last decade, especially in California's bigger cities, the deal changed to where municipal employees also got wages as good or better than they could in the private sector. In effect the municipal unions overreached and are now facing a serious backlash. Can't blame the unions for asking for it all when it was our elected officials who made the unions' wishes come true. But neither can we afford to pay the Muni employees what our officials promised unless we are willing to devote most of our city and county operating budgets to paying retirement costs and laying off younger employees instead of cutting wage rates/increasing retirement contributions. There literally won't be any money left to argue about spending on, say, more cops versus more anti-violence programs.

Democratic Mayor Chuck Reed of San Jose understands the numbers and why the costs of current employees have to be reduced. Governor Cuomo of New York does, too. But in Oakland you're called a Walkerite racing to the bottom if you suggest the same.

Len Raphael, Oakland

It's the Recession, Stupid

A recent article expressed concern for California public employees and their unions. Robert Gammon describes both real and unreal threats to public employees without differentiating between them. As usual, the issues are pensions and benefits. Rather than demystifying why public employees are under attack, he simply goes along with the Republican, Democratic and corporate agenda, which suggests that public employees themselves, their pensions, and their benefits are another symptom of a bloated government. He suggests that private-sector workers are angry because they no longer enjoy similar benefits. He fails, however, to mention that at one time they did and, in fact, until recently, most private sector workers' wages and benefits far exceeded what the public sector was receiving. He neglects to mention that the first attack on organized labor was on the private-sector workers who lost their jobs due to outsourcing offshore. Union-busting, along with reductions in wages, benefits, and exchanging defined benefit pension plans for a 401k-defined contribution plan or no pension plan at all further harmed those fortunate enough to still have jobs. All these changes were to the detriment of the working class and a benefit to corporations and Wall Street. He goes on to discuss the anger among the voting population generally about public sector workers' pensions. Again he fails to mention that voters have been confused for several years by the media's blaming state and local government budget problems on public employee pension plans. He conveniently forgot to mention that the current financial crisis underlying the budget problems was caused by deregulation of the banking industry and the subsequent bank bailout. Why no demand for jailing the individuals responsible for our economic crisis? Why no demand for nationalizing banks?

What Mr. Gammon did get right is that the pay and benefit packages for non-union high-level public sector officials are excessive. The fact is that the media focuses on these extreme examples as though they are typical of all public workers. Nothing could be further from the truth. People believe the media's lies and lose sight of who is actually responsible for the current depression: Wall Street and the banks.

Mr. Gammon points out that corporations are sliding through tax loopholes and state giveaways but fails to mention the relationship between Republicans, Democrats, and the corporations. Who finances these politicians? Yes, at times the unions donate huge amounts of money to particular candidates or ballot initiatives, but they generally get little back for their investments.

In his summary, Mr. Gammon joins with most labor bureaucrats in suggesting that it is in the interest of union members to support Governor Jerry Brown's continued attack on public employee pensions. He believes that if the unions support Brown's so-called Millionaire's Tax, they will be able to push the governor to stop corporate giveaways and close tax loopholes. Once Brown gets what he wants he will ignore his promises to the unions, as he has done many times in the past.

Considering the results of the Wisconsin recall vote, Obama's broken promises to organized labor, and Brown's attack on public workers' pension plans, the unions should be thinking about using their members' dues to advance the cause of solidarity and union-building. Unions should not support any ballot measure that harms their members, in particular, and the working class in general.

It seems clear that no matter how workers vote things are only going to get worse. Unions can no longer afford to buy politicians — the price is too high. The union presidents may act and talk like big shots, but it's all bluster and no substance. They no longer have a seat at the table. They are barely tolerated. Today the power of the unions is within the rank and file and the youth who have yet to be organized. This is where working people's political energies and money should be directed.

Charles Smith, Richmond

Corrections

In our June 27 music story, "Getting Upclose and Uncomfortable with Deafheaven," we misspelled guitarist Kerry McCoy's last name.

In our June 27 music pick, Leftover Crack, we gave an incorrect address for the Oakland Metro Operahouse. It's located at 630 3rd St., Oakland. ●

Letters Policy

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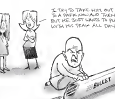
BROWN'S DISINTEREST IN STATE PARKS

The governor just doesn't seem to care about them. Plus, the failure of the Quan recall campaigns proves they were a waste of time.

By Robert Gammon


I TRY TO TAKE HIM OUT TO A PARK NOW AND THEN, BUT HE JUST WANTS TO PLAY WITH HIS TRAIN ALL DAY.
BULLET
DeFreitas

When **Jerry Brown** was mayor of Oakland, his limited attention span was on full display. He focused intensely on his 10K plan, his two charter schools, and crime in Oakland, but ignored numerous other problems. His second go-round as governor has been no different. Some issues receive his full attention, including his tax measure and the California bullet train. But others get the short shrift. One of the prime examples has been California's once-proud state park system.

In his first year in office, Brown proposed closing seventy state parks in what was purported to be a budget-cutting move. But close observers quickly noted that the parks closure plan would only save the state about $22 million — a paltry sum when considering that California's general fund budget is more than $90 billion. Moreover, Brown was facing a $15.7 billion budget shortfall last year, which meant that his plan to close parks would have solved just 0.14 percent of the problem.

The seventy parks got a reprieve for one year but then were facing closure again in 2012, even though the governor's plan still would have done little to address the state's budget woes. Last week, most of the parks were spared again after nonprofit groups stepped up to keep them open and the state legislature restored some funding. But environmentalists agree that this year's reprieve is unsustainable, particularly when considering that the state park system has a maintenance backlog that exceeds $1 billion.

So why has Brown tried to close state parks? Some observers believe it's all about drumming up support for his tax measure on the November 2012 ballot. After all, parks have bipartisan appeal — both Democrats and Republicans enjoy visiting them. And so the governor may hope that voters of all stripes will cast ballots for higher taxes in order to keep parks open.

But as millions of Californians embark on trips to state parks this summer, there's evidence that Brown is simply not that interested in them. Last week, he vetoed $31 million in spending on parks that the legislature had passed. And he has exerted considerable effort pushing for an unpopular $60 billion bullet train while devising no plans for sustaining the beloved state park system — a system that protects and enhances the environment and is integral to the state's tourist trade. "The sad thing, in my view, is that we've heard nothing from the governor," said **Kathryn Phillips**, director of Sierra Club California. "He's done nothing to facilitate keeping these parks open."

As mayor of Oakland, Brown showed disinterest in aspects of city government by failing to make permanent appointments to key leadership positions. Likewise, as governor he has refused to replace state parks Director **Ruth Coleman**, even though more than 90 percent of park managers said in a poll late last year that they had lost confidence in her. "Director Coleman is an honorable person, but she has been largely absent in making sense of the new economic realities," state park managers wrote in a letter to Brown. Nonetheless, Brown kept Coleman in the job, although he didn't officially reappoint her to the post. In other words, our state parks are being run by someone who not only doesn't have the full support of the governor but has no credibility with the people who work for her.

California's state parks are a mess. Which is surprising, considering that so many people care deeply about them. "The biggest issue we've heard from the public — the most calls, emails, questions, and concerns on an environmental issue in the ten years I've worked here — is not high-speed rail. It's not global warming. It's people concerned about the closing of state parks," **Jim Metropulos** of Sierra Club California told the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Some environmentalists are also concerned that the public outcry over parks will wane because most of the parks slated for closure got another reprieve. Although nonprofit groups have only agreed to keep the parks open for one year, there's concern that both the public and state government may begin to view funding for parks much like they do funding for arts and music in public schools: Taxpayers used to pay for them, but now expect nonprofits, like PTAs, to do so. "I really hope that the state government doesn't think it's off the hook just because nonprofits stepped up this year," said **Amy Trainer**, executive director of The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, which has worked to keep open Tomales Bay State Park and Samuel P. Taylor State Park, both of which were slated for closure by the governor. "It's not sustainable," she said of relying on nonprofits. "State parks are part of the public trust."

Quan Recall Ends

The third of three efforts to recall Oakland Mayor **Jean Quan** unraveled last week, officially ending the campaign to remove her from office. The third effort, like the other two, failed to gather the requisite signatures to force a recall election. Leaders of the third group blamed Governor Brown's tax measure campaign, saying it hired all of the available signature-gatherers and was paying them a much higher rate than the recall campaign could afford. In reality, however, the recalls failed because Quan does not deserve to be removed from office.

There's no doubt that Quan made mistakes with her so-called 100 Blocks crime plan and mishandled Occupy Oakland, but she also has delivered two balanced budgets without serious cuts to city services; her administration finally got the police union to pay into its pension plan; and she hired a no-nonsense city administrator, **Deanna Santana**, who has already made strides in cleaning up City Hall.

In short, Quan has a mixed record. And voters typically don't recall politicians even if they truly deserve it. Just ask the Wisconsin Democrats who unsuccessfully attempted to recall Republican Governor **Scott Walker** last month after he moved to strip public employees of their collective bargaining rights. Walker's actions were worthy of a recall, but the attempt to oust him still came up short.

As such, Quan's critics should learn some lessons from the recall failures. Recalls should be reserved for serious cases of misconduct or incompetence. And now that it's clear that Quan is going to serve out the rest of her term, the mayor's critics, if they really care about Oakland, should start looking for positive ways to help the city — and put an end to the divisiveness. It's just not warranted. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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LEGALIZATION NATION

HOW REALISTIC IS 'SAVAGES'?

Not at all, but Legalization Nation goes ahead and fact-checks Oliver Stone's new weedy, ultra-violent cartel flick

By David Downs

Blake Lively in Savages.

On July 6, *Savages*, a bloody meditation on what would happen if a Mexican drug cartel tried to move in on two independent medical marijuana growers in Laguna Beach directed by Oliver Stone, will hit theaters nationwide. We're not expecting much in the way of realism from *Savages*. Stone wrote the notoriously comic *Scarface*, after all. And *Savages* is based on the 2010 novel of the same name written by crime novelist Don Winslow of Los Angeles. But *Savages* the movie does offer a great teachable moment about actual cartel marijuana operations in California.

Legalization Nation obtained from national drug law-reform group Law Enforcement Against Prohibition an "unclassified/law enforcement sensitive" bulletin titled "Illegal Marijuana Cultivation and Illicit Activity Associated with Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in California." The US Department of Homeland Security's California State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) generated the bulletin in February. This so-called "fusion center" serves as an information clearinghouse on strategic threats.

Reading the fusion center's February 2012 report, we learn that *Savages* is not just a work of fiction. It's completely implausible. Mexican drug trafficking organizations (MDTOs) currently smuggle commercial grade pot from Mexico and sell it to gangs in the Midwest and on the East Coast. The cartels don't bother with small "legal" medical cannabis markets in Laguna Beach or any other California city.

Even cops admit that the one place you won't find cartels operating in the United States is the high-end medical pot scene in California. "The STAC has no credible information suggesting MDTOs are involved in California's medical marijuana dispensaries," the report stated. "MDTOs likely do not operate or supply any medical marijuana dispensaries in the state."

Later in the report: "There is no credible evidence that indicates MDTOs sell or are interested in selling marijuana to local medical marijuana dispensaries. ... Over the past two years, law enforcement investigations within Los Angeles County and surrounding cities yielded no evidence of MDTO involvement in either the operation or supply of marijuana to medical marijuana dispensaries in the Los Angeles region."

How come? Economies of scale. Medical marijuana dispensaries typically buy a pound or two at a time of very high-quality pot from their members. International drug trafficking cartels sell metric tons of schwag to criminal street gangs. Citing personal interviews with narcotics officers and reports from Central Valley and Los Angeles High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, the fusion center noted that the economic structure of the boutique medical marijuana trade doesn't pencil out for a multinational cartel. Drug intelligence analyst Sylvia Longmire, author of 2011 book *Cartels*, put it this way: "Cartels are like Wal-Mart."

"MDTOs will likely continue to avoid association with California's medical marijuana dispensaries because it would be cumbersome and impractical to sell small amounts of marijuana to numerous dispensaries," the fusion center report explained further.

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition speaker and writer Jamie Haase, who worked for the US Border Patrol, as well as for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, from 2003 to 2011, including a stint on the border in Laredo, Texas, in 2008 and 2009, said the fusion center report confirms what cops already know: "It's obvious that cartels are not in the dispensary game," he said.

Haase has seen tunnels, trucks, and houses "filled to the brim" with metric tons of Mexican pot. Cartels use California to distribute smuggled weed nationwide. The massive outdoor grows in public forests may be cartel-related. Some cartels are also cultivating outdoor weed on private farmland in the Central Valley, both the fusion center report and Haase said.

But that outdoor pot is sold "wholesale to criminal groups (e.g., street gangs, such as affiliates of the Sureños, Norteños, Bloods, and Crips, and outlaw motorcycle gangs such as the Hells Angels) who likely re-sell the drugs at street level for larger profits than selling to local medical marijuana dispensaries," the bulletin stated. Mexican cartels transport their supplies to as far as New York or Georgia, where profit margins are two to three times higher than in California, the bulletin added.

The fusion center is highly confident that cartels are operating in national forests, but others are skeptical. Cops rarely catch forest farmers. Humboldt County Sheriff Michael Downey told us in November that the few farmers caught come from all over the world: Bulgaria, Russia, France.

Michelle Gregory, spokeswoman for the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, said Mexican migrants often work forest fields, but "typically these guys don't know a whole lot."

Bottom line: *Savages* will draw tens of millions of dollars at the box office this week with a hot Blake Lively three-way sex scene and shots of Mexicans decapitating legal American growers. But it's pure Hollywood.

Out in the real world, the medical marijuana industry has no use for cartels. And Haase believes "full US legalization would cripple all of them." ■

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

HOME GROWN AUTHOR NIGHT

Co-Director of the RAND Drug Policy Research Center **Beau Kilmer**, author of 2012 release *Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs To Know*

Celebrity grower **Ed Rosenthal**, author of numerous 2012 books including *Marijuana Grower's Handbook*

University of Cincinnati Assistant Professor of History **Isaac Campos**, author of 2012 release *HOME GROWN: Marijuana and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs*

Award winning journalist, **Greg Campbell**, author of the 2012 book, *Pot, Inc.* Campbell wrote the best selling *Flawless* and *Blood Diamonds*

Moderated by East Bay Express contributing writer, David Downs, syndicated columnist for Legalization Nation

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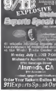

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The proposed police commission would not be under the control of Santana and Jordan

Ali Winston

NEWS

OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION FACES OBSTACLES

City regulations and state law preclude an independent commission from shining a light on police misconduct and meting out discipline

By Ali Winston

Police officer misconduct has plagued OPD for many years and with a potential federal takeover of the department looming, police oversight is at the forefront of city politics. Several politically connected activists have proposed a November ballot measure that would establish a seven-member independent police commission to "oversee, audit, and monitor" the Oakland Police Department. The activists also have been pushing the idea to councilmembers for weeks in hopes of securing support for the proposed civilian-run organization.

Police commissions have been in place for decades in San Francisco and Los Angeles, where civilian commissioners appointed by the mayor and members of the board of supervisors and city council, respectively, share responsibility for hiring and firing police chiefs, researching and implementing policy changes, and meting out discipline for individual officers accused of misconduct. By contrast, in Oakland, the police chief and city administrator, both mayoral appointees, make disciplinary decisions for police personnel, with an arbitrator having the final say.

According to Rashidah Grinage, a longtime police accountability activist, a police commission in Oakland would "shine light in dark spaces" by conducting audits and investigations into police policies, operations, and finances. The ballot initiative also would give the commission independence from the City Administrator's Office, which Grinage maintains has an inherent conflict of interest in reining in the police department. "How can the city administrator provide accountability to OPD when that person is involved in minimizing the legal exposure of departments under her control?" Grinage asked, noting that five city administrators have not succeeded in bringing the Oakland Police Department in line with the reforms of the federal consent decree.

However, there are major obstacles to the proposed commission. It has not garnered much support from either the public or the city council. As of July 2, an online petition in support of the proposal had received only 114 signatures since its creation on June 16. And at the June 26 session of council's Public Safety Committee, Councilwoman Nancy Nadel unsuccessfully attempted to propose the police commission as a ballot measure, eliciting an angry letter from the police accountability group PUEBLO to Councilwomen Pat Kernighan and Rebecca Kaplan for their lack of support. "We can't get any councilmembers to step up," Grinage said.

But those aren't the only obstacles. Even if supporters of the independent commission proposal were to obtain council and voter approval, the commission itself likely would be stymied by the powerful Oakland police union. The Oakland Police Officers Association, which has already expressed its opposition to the police commission proposal as yet another cumbersome layer of oversight, has a clause in its current contract that bars the city from altering how it handles labor disputes — including the discipline and termination of police officers. The contract, which expires on June 30, 2015, represented a significant political victory for Mayor Jean Quan last year because it required for the first time that OPD officers pay 9 percent of their salary towards their pensions. However, the contract also stipulates that if the city were to attempt to alter the labor arbitration system for police officer discipline and termination, then the 9 percent pension concession is void.

Over the years, arbitration rulings have proven to be a significant obstacle in getting rid of problem officers. In 2009, Officer Hector Jimenez was terminated for the June 2008 fatal shooting of Jody Woodfox III, an unarmed suspect who fled from a car stop. Six months earlier, Jimenez and another officer shot and killed Andrew Moppin-Buckskin, another unarmed suspect. In early 2011 a labor arbitrator ruled that the city improperly fired Jimenez and ordered that he be reinstated immediately with back pay.

Yet even if the police union were to agree to change the arbitration system and allow an independent police commission to discipline and terminate officers, state law would keep much of the commission's work under wraps. *Copley Press Inc. v. Superior Court of San Diego County*, a 2006 California Supreme Court decision, bars independent oversight agencies from releasing the personnel files of individual officers, including misconduct allegations and investigations (see "Deadly Secrets," 10/12/2011). Oakland's Citizens' Police Review Board, which investigates complaints against officers independently from OPD's Internal Affairs but can only recommend disciplinary action, lost much of its purpose after *Copley*. Even police misconduct hearings conducted by the San Francisco Police Commission, a model for the proposal, have been closed to the public since 2006.

As a result, there are divergent opinions among scholars about the efficacy of the police commission model for effectively running a law enforcement agency. David Sklansky, a professor of criminal law at UC Berkeley's School of Law, said police commissions have a critical role to play in making policy decisions and opening the workings of the police department up to public accountability. However, Sklansky warned that adopting a particular governing structure for a police department would not cure deep-seated issues. "No structure of accountability is a cure-all — the devil is in the details," he said.

The most effective forms of accountability for police departments come from a number of different entities — police commissioners, independent inspectors general, a department's own internal affairs division — working toward accountability without being at cross purposes with each other or getting overly involved in fulfilling legal requirements at the expense of street policing. Sklansky also noted that studies show that civilian oversight doesn't typically lead to stricter discipline for officers. "Civilians involved in the disciplinary system are actually more lenient on officers," he said.

Sam Walker, a criminal justice professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, believes there is value in a police commission despite the hurdles to public transparency and accountability thrown up by *Copley* and union contracts. "My idea of accountability is to turn the heat up on the police chief to do the right thing, and a police commission can do that by having a large enough staff to investigate issues, and by having unfettered access to information," Walker said. In Los Angeles, for example, the police commission's inspector general recently released a report challenging LAPD Chief Charlie Beck's assertion that officer-involved shootings have risen because of a simultaneous increase in assaults on police officers.

According to Walker, information about officer misconduct could be easily made available on an aggregate basis, or even on individual officers by simply redacting their names. However, Walker warned that the efficacy of a police commission without control over labor matters or discipline depends on committed funding for the civilian oversight body, citing the failure of Fresno to adequately staff or fund its now-defunct Independent Police Auditor.

"It's one step removed from what we want," Grinage said. Ideally, an Oakland Police Commission would have the power of the San Francisco Police Commission to hire and fire police chiefs and make decisions on disciplinary matters — but that can't be accomplished until the police union contract expires three years from now. ●

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

Slashing Democracy

Florida's attempt to scrub the voter rolls is un-American.
Five Five good reasons why you should care about it.

By Billy Manes & Erin Sullivan

Threaten to curb someone's right to own a gun in the state of Florida and you're likely to provoke a war — you'll be threatened, castigated, called un-American. You'll have to pry that gun from its Second Amendment-invoking owner's cold dead hands, and you'll have to battle with legions of lobbyists and outraged citizens who'd rather shoot you than let you violate their constitutionally protected right to bear arms.

But threaten to take away someone's right to vote — a right that's at the very foundation of a democratic society — and what happens? Not much, judging from the recent attacks on voter's rights in Florida in which Governor Rick Scott and Secretary of State Ken Detzner have pushed to scrub voter rolls of alleged "non-citizens" who don't have the right to vote. By all accounts, their strategy is bizarrely flawed, has swept legally registered voters up in its net and has been declared a violation of federal voting laws by the US Department of Justice. Yet it continues.

Scott and Detzner's actions threaten to undermine our right to have any control over our government at all — but for some reason, it's awfully quiet out there right now. There are no lobbyists swarming the state Capitol and there aren't very many outraged citizens demanding a stop to this effort to pluck people off the voter rolls. A handful of progressive citizens groups — the usual suspects — are trying to drum up interest, outrage, and support.

Where is everybody else on this?

"Well, that's a good question," said Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida. "I don't know. I'm equally frustrated by that. Where is the outrage, to use what is now a trite phrase. I don't know. I'm sorry to say that Americans are too willing to wake up in the morning and read the newspaper and express their outrage to themselves over a cup of coffee and the morning paper."

It's not like nobody cares about the situation. The federal government is suing Florida because the voter purge violates the Voting Rights Act of 1965; the state is suing the federal government so it can get more information to more efficiently purge the voter rolls; and the ACLU and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law are suing the state to prevent the purge from moving forward. But the civil rights organizations and government interests shouldn't be the only ones to care. You should care. We should care. Everyone should care — even if you don't live in the state of Florida. And here's why: The state's voter purge is not just a slimy strategy to win an election. It's an attempt to degrade our voting system, undermine our elections, and suppress people's ability to vote — particularly people who are minorities, many of whom are undecided voters or vote for more liberal candidates. The voter purge is an assault on our freedom and our self-determination — and it's spreading.

A tea Party-backed effort begun by an organization called True the Vote is urging states to force them to enact purges of their own. The organization's mission, according to its website, is to "promote ideas that actively protect the rights of legitimate voters regardless of their political party affiliation." Underlying the organization's rhetoric is the unstated conclusion that our government is corrupt not because money taints our legislatures and Congress, not because corporate interests are put before the interests of the citizens of this country, and not because our electoral system is set up so that the richest (not the best) candidates win elections. True the Vote's angle is that our biggest, most pressing problem is that some people who are registered to vote are either dead or illegally registered. The organization has partnered with Judicial Watch on its "election integrity" project and the two organizations have multiple states — California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Indiana, Missouri, Texas, West Virginia, Alabama and Florida — in their crosshairs.

"There appear to be more individuals on voter registration lists in these states than there are individuals eligible to vote, including individuals who are deceased," Judicial Watch warns on its website. "Judicial Watch's initial warning letters notified election officials in Ohio and Indiana that they are required by law to 'maintain accurate lists of eligible voters for use in conducting elections,' and that Judicial Watch is prepared to take legal action if election officials fail to clean up their voter rolls."

But according to Simon and other civil rights watchdogs, this isn't a matter of cleaning up the voter rolls at all — there are already laws on the books that address legal consequences for those who vote illegally. But they're not being heavily enforced.

"Clearly there probably are people who are illegally registered," Simon said. "And I do not know if maybe they have illegally voted, but that's a third-degree felony in the state of Florida if they did, and maybe they should be prosecuted for that, and if they were, maybe that would send the message to other people. So we can't let the governor get away with the idea that he is trying to protect the integrity of the electoral system. Of course the integrity of the electoral system should protected."

But not at the cost of your right to vote — our right to vote. "What I find most offensive is the kind of 1984 Orwell speak, you know, knocking people off the voting rolls, knocking American citizens off the voting rolls as collateral damage in the search for the few people who may be on the voting rolls illegally," Simon added. "This is what this governor calls protecting the integrity of elections. Normal people would call it depriving legitimate voters of their right to vote."

So get mad, people. You should care. Here are five good reasons why we should be raising the roof over this brazen act of voter suppression.

Because It's Happened Before

Those even mildly taken aback by the blind chutzpah currently being exhibited by Governor Scott and his purge-worthy defiance needn't look back too far in the Florida annals for another example of suppression via the voter rolls. On November 7, 2000 — the day that brought us the term "hanging chad" — Florida's less obvious electoral fumble came in the form of tens of thousands of eligible Florida voters either being turned away at their polling places or forbidden to register altogether.

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In a twisted bit of conservative housecleaning logic, the state had already ordered a scrub of the voter rolls prior to Governor Jeb Bush's 1998 gubernatorial election; in order to do so, the state paid Database Technologies Inc. (the only bidder on the contract) an unprecedented $2.3 million to help get the job done; 8,000 of the names ordered to be removed from the voter rolls were provided by Texas state officials working under Jeb's big brother Governor George W. Bush. Fast forward two years later, and Jeb Bush's since-maligned Secretary of State Katherine Harris ordered the names of 82,389 ex-felons who had relocated to Florida from states where voting rights are restored upon completion of their prison sentences in order to delete them from the voter roles.

In other words, Florida broke the law. Subsequent studies found the accuracy rate of the database to be far below Database Technologies' estimate of 85 percent (one county assessment came up with a 5 percent accuracy rate), but even if Database Technologies was correct, that would still mean that 15 percent of a population that votes 93 percent Democratic was not allowed the right to vote. Don't think that matters much? George W. Bush won Florida by a tiny margin of just 543 votes. It matters.

Because Voting Is a Right, Not a Privilege

Our federal Constitution guarantees that citizens over the age of eighteen cannot be deprived of a vote based on race, age, or gender. The right to vote is a hard-earned one, even though most of us didn't really have to fight all that hard in our lifetimes to get it. Up until 1965, when the Voting Rights Act was finally passed, many states implemented processes and obstacles that made it harder for people — mostly minorities — to cast a vote.

We should have put that shit behind us more than forty years ago, and yet politicians in Florida (and Texas and everywhere, basically) are continually looking for new ways to get around that law. These same politicians are often the ones invoking our rights to bear arms and pray to the God of our choice, but they're remarkably silent on another of our most basic rights — the one right that actually gives people a say in who governs them and how they are governed.

One of the earliest documents drawn up that led to the founding of our nation — the Declaration of Independence — compiled a list of grievances against King George III, not the least of which was the failure of the king to respect the colonists' rights to have a say in how they were governed.

"In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms," the declaration states. "Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

And free people have the right to vote. Not the privilege. The right.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

But how are people to alter, abolish or institute new government if they can't participate in the democratic process created to help them do just that? Um. Exactly.

Because It's Illegal

Critics of Governor Scott's scrub-happy maneuvering have cited two very important laws meant to curtail intentional voter suppression: the 1965 Voting Rights Act and 1993's National Voter Registration Act. The former forbids

Florida Republican Governor Rick Scott is spearheading the voter purge

states from enacting laws that prohibit voter participation based on race, forcing areas in the South (which had historically been responsible in large part for poll taxes and Jim Crow laws) to get preclearance from the US Department of Justice on any changes to voting laws. The National Voting Rights Act prevents states from adjusting their voter rolls within ninety days of a federal election, among numerous other pro-voter caveats.

When a legion of voting and civil rights groups banded together to sue Florida on the matter of its mass purge — citing, among various racial implications, the fact that there is a federal election within the next ninety days (that being the August 14 Florida primary), the response from the DOJ was swift and clear: The purge likely does violate the aforementioned laws, and should probably be stopped.

Given a few days to mull it over in a festering conservative think tank, Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner conjured the old red herring of "widespread voter fraud" that has yet to be quantified in any real manner. Then Florida went a step further, suing the US Department of Homeland Security for not providing adequate information from a federal database for the state to purge even more voters. "I want everybody to vote — but not non US citizens," Scott told CNN on June 12. "That's illegal." Of course, when your database is vastly inaccurate such prudence doesn't apply.

Because It's Racist

Don't believe anyone who tells you that it's not. Even if the process itself is blind — that is to say even if the voter purge is being implemented purely on data and not on the color of voters' skin — the statistics are not. Latinos make up more than 58 percent of those contained in the flawed voter-purge list being used to scrub the rolls. It's no secret that the Hispanic vote has yet to be fully claimed by any party — Hispanic voters, pollsters point out, are often swing voters, less likely to vote along party lines. Which means they are unpredictable. Which means it's better to just keep them from getting to the polls in the first place, rather than take a chance that they vote and fail to vote for the "right" candidate (cough cough, Mitt Romney.)

Pair this anti-Latino scrubbing effort with Governor Scott's earlier chipping away at efforts that mobilize the black vote and it's well — the ACLU's Simon doesn't mince words: "There is a racial aspect to this and all the other voting-suppression measures that were adopted by the legislature and championed by the governor and now being defended by the governor," he said. "Cutting in half the number of early voting days and specifically banning voting on the Sunday before the Tuesday election, for instance. Please, somebody explain to me how that addresses voter fraud, rather than simply make it more difficult for working people to vote? And to make it more difficult for the Souls to the Polls program, which so many African-American churches were engaged in, impossible. That's what it was designed to do and fraud is being used as an excuse to make it more difficult to vote, more difficult to register to vote, and more difficult to have your vote counted."

Because the Corporations Are Winning

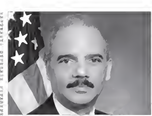
The injury currently being added to the insult of Governor Scott's wild-eyed suppression tactics comes in the form of increased political clout among billionaire CEOs and the regulation-fearing corporations they represent. Part of the ramp-up in influence comes by way of the 2010 *Citizens United* ruling by the US Supreme Court that concluded that corporations are people, too, and as such, have the right to give back-scratching billions to whatever political campaigns might tickle their fancy.

But even with that ruling, the rise of the Super PAC — a far less transparent means of funding candidates and issues — has attracted the lion's share of shadowy corporate money. What that means is that voters in general need to avoid an influx of lies parading across their television screens in order to make their own informed choices. But, as is the nature of advertising, it also indirectly means that general impressions and brand recognition are being nefariously directed by corporate interests. You buy your candidates like you buy your soda these days. It's no surprise that many of these corporate interests have likewise been trying to suppress voter registration at the state level via one-stop lobbying organizations such as the American Legislative Exchange Council, a backroom factory for derailing progressive policies. The only way to counter the wholesale purchase of the electoral process is to have a strong, informed, and varied pool of representation on the voter rolls. That, dear reader, is exactly what conservatives do not want. They don't want you.

Postscript I

US District Court Judge Robert Hinkle handed down a decision last week allowing the State of Florida to carry on its flawed and controversial voter purge. The US Department of Justice had sued to halt the purge, claiming that it violated federal law, which prohibits states from enacting systematic voter-roll purges within ninety days of an election. Florida's primary election is scheduled for August 14 — less than two months away.

But Hinkle ruled that the law doesn't apply to non-citizens. And since the state's purge is supposed to be targeting non-citizens, it gets the green light to carry on. Despite the fact that in its zeal to scrub these rolls, Governor Scott and Company are sweeping completely legit voters into their net of alleged illegals, the state's logic has been that a few inconvenienced voters are just collateral damage in the larger fight to root out non-citizen voters wherever they are found.



Democrats believe that Republicans are targeting Eric Holder because of his fight against the voter-purge.

Postscript II

House Republicans took an unprecedented action last week, voting to hold US Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress. GOP members led by California Congressman Darrell Issa contended that the contempt citing was the result of Holder's failure to turn over documents in the so-called Fast and Furious scandal involving the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

But many Democratic Congressional leaders believe that the GOP went after Holder because of his ongoing battle against the voter-purge in Florida. In a strongly worded letter to Florida Secretary of State Detzner, Holder's Justice Department contended last month that the state's untested method of purging voters was deeply flawed because it was based on outdated information from the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles.

"They're going after Eric Holder because he is supporting measures to overturn these voter suppression initiatives in the states," Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco told reporters last week after the contempt vote. "This is no accident. It is no coincidence. It is a plan on the part of the Republicans."

And there's evidence to back up Pelosi's allegation. When calling for Holder's resignation early last month, Texas Republican Senator John Cornyn specifically cited the DOJ's efforts to protect voting rights in Florida and elsewhere: "Your department blocks states from implementing attempts to combat voter fraud." ●

This report was originally published in the *Orlando Weekly*. *Express* co-editor Robert Gammon contributed to it.

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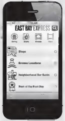

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THE BAY AREA'S BEST FESTIVAL JUST GOT BETTER.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Tracey Snelling

traceysnelling.com

Tracey Snelling was born in 1970, in Oakland, California. She received a BFA from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque and currently lives and works in the Bay Area. Through the use of sculpture, photography, video and installation, Snelling gives her impression of a place, its people and their experience, and allows the viewer to extrapolate his or her own meaning. Often, the cinematic image stands in for real life as it plays out behind windows in the buildings, sometimes creating a sense of mystery, other times stressing the mundane.

Snelling has shown work in museums such as, but not limited to: Gemeentemuseum Helmond, the Netherlands; Shanghai Zendai MOMA, Zhujiajiao, China; The Museum of Arts and Design, NY; Frist Museum, Nashville, TN; Houston Center for Photography, TX; Kunstmuseum Krefeld, Germany; San Jose Museum of Art, CA. She has had solo exhibitions throughout the US as well as in China, Belgium, the Netherlands, and London, and had been awarded residencies in Beijing and Shanghai. Her large-scale installation Women on the Run was originally commissioned by and exhibited at Selfridges, London, and has travelled to Smack Mellon in Brooklyn, 21c Museum in Louisville, the Frist in Nashville, and SECCA in Winston-Salem. It will be shown at the Virginia MOCA in September 2012. Snelling's short film, "Nothing" recently premiered at the San Francisco International Film Festival.

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Jeremy Dalmas and Jube Crossman

Oakland … Live!

A monthly late-night talk show brings variety to a North Oakland backyard

Jeremy Dalmas looks sharp in a suit, owns a big red couch and is remarkably lackadaisical about having a couple hundred strangers in his yard. Together, these qualities make up the backbone of *Oakland Nights … Live!* — a late-night, Oakland-themed "talk show" that Dalmas and cohost Jube Crossman have been co-hosting in the backyard of his North Oakland home once a month since last fall.

Dalmas was an active musician before becoming an informal talk-show host. And while he liked performing, he said he felt awkward "just sitting and playing music in front of people." So he started incorporating interactive elements into his live shows, and also became the charismatic host of the Seaweed Sway Showcase at the Make-Out Room in the Mission, where he once executed a theatrical reenactment of the *Oregon Trail* computer game. Crossman occasionally performed in Dalmas' skits, which set them on a path toward a show all their own.

Touted as "half Johnny Carson, half *Pee-Wee's Playhouse*, half *Fresh Air*, and all Oakland," *Oakland Nights* borrows from elements of the traditional talk-show format with ample use of cue cards during on-the-couch interviews, a cardboard cutout of the city's skyline, a swanky house band, stand-up comics and even a telephone to field live calls. Yet that's where the similarities end. From the minute Dalmas and Crossman (who has co-hosted the show dressed as a hot dog and a medieval knight) appear onstage every first Saturday of the month, it's clear that their production is the sort of theatrical free-for-all where the audience is as much a part of the show as are the guests, and where the rules fly so far out the window that they end up halfway down the street. "We try to make it really fun and interactive, and the audience members are sort of welcome to say anything at any point in the show," Dalmas said.

And while each "episode" flows more or less like a talk show, the tone and format tends to be driven by the monthly theme. June's show, "Book Club," featured readings by authors like prize-winning poet Dean Rader. Another included a phone interview with a local astrophysicist stationed at the South Pole. And it's not uncommon for shows to include talks with small-business owners and local nonprofits. Dalmas said he's trying to strike a balance between entertaining and informative, and even has tentative plans for an election-themed show in October, in which he'll invite City Council District 1 candidates as guests. "There are a lot of people doing a lot of interesting things in Oakland," Dalmas said, "and we try and focus on things that are a little less normal."

The next show, "Oaklandtalks," on Saturday, July 7, is a take on the popular TEDTalks series. The *Oakland Nights* version will include brief presentations on "Regional Specificity in Department of Transportation Signs" and "Post-Post Punk Influence on Bay Area Dance," plus a medical student's musings on gonorrhea — which, Dalmas half-quipped, is an "interesting disease." At 3941 Clarke St., Oakland, 7:30-10 p.m., free. 510-385-3337 or OaklandNightsLive.com

— *Cassie McFadden*

ATTRACTIONS

All White Bridal Exhibit Fashion Show With a celebration of florist and fashion show producer Marie [illegible]'s birthday. All white dress code strictly enforced. At 1738 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Sat., July 7, 8 p.m. $20. 510-472-0702, MarieB-Productions.com.

Jack's Night Market A monthly, nighttime outdoor market and bazaar on the Jack London Square waterfront, with live performances, local artisans, and food and drink. Fri., July 6, 5:30 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

Oakland Heritage Alliance Oakland Walking Tour: Mountain View Cemetery Meet at the Chapel of the Chimes (4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland) for a tour of the historic cemetery. Call or e-mail info@OaklandHeritage.org to RSVP. Sun., July 8, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $5-$15. 510-763-9218, OaklandHeritage.org. Mountain View Cemetery, 5000 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-658-2588, MountainView-Cemetery.org.

OMCA Screen Printing Demonstration Printmakers Jason Sun and Art Hillenbrand share screen printing techniques in the OMCA's Great Hall. Participants take home a custom print. Sat., July 7, 2-3:30 p.m., free w/admission. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Super Heroes Weekend at Playland Come in costume as a superhero to win prizes, in addition to the museum's regular activities. July 7-8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

The ZooMobile With a visit from the animals from the Oakland Zoo. Sat., July 7, 2:30 p.m., free. Elmhurst Public Library, Elmhurst Branch, 1427 88th Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5727, OaklandLibrary.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Alameda County Fair The annual fair celebrates its centennial with livestock and agriculture displays, exhibitions, quilt contests, baking contests, horse racing, food, and much more. Through July 8. Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. 925-426-7600, AlamedaCountyFair.com.

[illegible] Market's One-Year Anniversary Party With [illegible] customer appreciation sale, sangria, a vintage photo booth, and more. Sun., July 8, 2-5 p.m., free. [illegible] Vintage, 1821 2nd Ave., Oakland. 510-788-8036, [illegible].net.

Oakland Fiber & Textile Festival With demonstrations in fiber handling and sorting, "make-and-take" booths in [illegible] carding, spinning, and felting; vendors; and more. Sun., July 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free. 510-482-0137, OaklandFiberFest.com. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510 238-7275.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Chinese Herbs for Common Ailments Learn how to use Chinese herbal formulas for relief of everyday issues from PMS to pain and fatigue. Sat., July 7, 2-3 p.m., free. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, 5730 College Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Learn natural methods to eliminate mouth decay and restore [illegible] to your lips. Tue., July 10, 7:30 p.m. $10 materials. [illegible], 2166 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-2327, [illegible].org.

Naturopathic Therapies and Cancer Treatment Workshop Licensed naturopathic doctor Beth Walker, ND discusses how natural therapies can safely reduce treatment side effects, support immune function, and improve quality of life. RSVP required. Tue., July 10, 6-8 p.m., free. Cancer Support Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-933-0107.

PICKS

Oakland Heritage Alliance Walking Tours

Oakland is a city steeped in history — but sometimes it takes an organization like the Oakland Heritage Alliance to remind us of its rich past. That's why the group's Summer Walking Tours are an invaluable asset to anyone curious about the history behind the city's neighborhoods and landmarks. This year's tour season, which runs Saturdays and Sundays from July 7 through August 26, begins on Saturday, July 7, with a two-mile tour of the estate of Francis Marion "Borax" Smith, one of the city's most famous entrepreneurs (meet at the corner of McKinley Ave. and Home Pl. East) followed on Sunday, July 8, with a tour of late notables buried in the Mountain View Cemetery (meet at the Chapel of the Chimes at 4499 Piedmont Ave.). 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., $5-$15. 510-763-9218 or OaklandHeritage.org. — *Cassie McFadden*

Temescal Street Fair

It's time once again for the annual Temescal Street Fair, which for the ninth year will stop traffic along a stretch of Telegraph Avenue in North Oakland for a day of food, drink, live performances, and other family-friendly revelry. This year's festival features a jam-packed lineup of performers across four stages, three stomach-stuffing food courts, and more than one hundred craft-tastic vendor booths. Among the many offerings to take in: a performance by the Kinetic Arts Center's young circus troupe, drinks from The Avenue and bites from Barlata and crafts from artisans at the new Temescal Alley. Between 42nd and 51st sts. on Sunday, July 8. Noon-6 p.m. free. 510-860-7327 or TemescalDistrict.org. — *CM*

Caroline Abello

KIDS

Art Workshop with MOCHA Artists with the Museum of Children's Art present art workshops with different [illegible] each week. Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5812, OaklandLibrary.org.

Bay Area Children's Theater Presents: Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type A musical adaptation of Doreen Cronin's Caldecott Honor book, designed to introduce pre-kindergarteners to the theater. Starting Jul. 7. Saturdays, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. & 4 p.m. Continues through Aug. 5. $10-$15. 510-296-4433, BACTheatre.org. Children's Fairyland, [illegible] Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259, Fairyland.org.

East Bay Moms Hike With an easy hike around a 1.6-mile loop. Wed., July 11, 9:30 a.m. free. EastBayMoms.com. Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-544-3187, EBParks.org/Parks/Sibley.

Dr. Global Kay [illegible] making the [illegible], and a performance by Japanese drumming group Tsunami Taiko. Wed., July 11, 12-2 p.m. free w/admission. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Magic Dan A library-friendly magic show for kids ages 3 and up. Tue., July 10, 1 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, [illegible] Fairmont Ave., [illegible]. 510-535-5600, OaklandLibrary.org.

Mehndi Tattoos Learn from the [illegible] temporary tattoos. Signed Meditation slip required. To RSVP: [illegible] OaklandLibrary.org. Sat., July 7, 3-4 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Piedmont Branch, 160 41st St., Oakland. 510-597-5011, OaklandLibrary.org.

Paws to Read Where kids can read to friendly canines. Wed., July 11, 3-4:30 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

Rockridge Ninjas A monthly [illegible] group. Call or e-mail [illegible] for more information: 510-597-5017 or [illegible] OaklandLibrary.org. [illegible] Tuesday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

San Markel Farmers' Market Kids' Day [illegible] for kids. First Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. San [illegible] Farmers' Market, [illegible] and Paseo Grande, San [illegible]. [illegible]/Market_Home.php?Market_id=90

Universe Camp at The MADE A weekly camp with video game development classes, game-related arts and crafts, guest speakers, and more to teach kids video game creation. Campers can join at the beginning of each week or stay for entire session. For ages 9-13. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Aug. 31, $275-$350. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

Mermaid Reading with Mr. Shoo [illegible] magic, balloon art, the [illegible] for all ages. Wed., July 11, 10:30 a.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Ste. 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

Tyke Explorers: Waters Waters With activities exploring water. Tue., July 10, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. $9-$12; [illegible] for each additional child. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

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PETS

Golden Pig Adoption Fair With [illegible] guinea pigs [illegible] for adoption, plus [illegible] cake and [illegible]. Sat., July 7, 1-4 p.m. [illegible]. 7523 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. 510-525-0155, [illegible].org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Market Clarity through Meditation [illegible], co-director of the [illegible] Nyingma [illegible], leads a a meditation to evoke calm and clarity. Sun., July 8, 1-1 p.m., free. Tibetan Nyingma [illegible], 2845 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812, Nyingma.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

29th Annual [illegible] Dinner [illegible] Program With a potluck. [illegible] speakers including [illegible], a reunion of [illegible] for Peace participants over the years, and live music by [illegible] and others. Sat., July 7, 6-8 p.m., [illegible]. 510-495-6137, [illegible].org. Redwood Gardens, 2951 Derby Street, Berkeley.

Chabot: A Movie, and the Universe With a [illegible] movie screened in the [illegible] Theater, [illegible] the Skyline Eatery, and [illegible] of the center's activities and exhibits. July 6-8, [illegible] p.m., $12-$15. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Knitting Eleven With a demonstration of a variety of [illegible] methods. For all those of [illegible] the yarn crafters. Wed., July 11, 6:30-8 p.m. free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.Hayward-CA.gov.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Day Hike With a non-strenuous walk through the redwoods surrounding Chabot. Ages 6 and up. Wed., July 11, 2-3 p.m. $3 plus general admission. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Half Dome in a Day: Tips for a Successful Hike [illegible], author of *One Best Hike: Yosemite's Half Dome*, shares slides and information about hiking the Half Dome. Wed., July 11, 7-8:30 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140, REI.com.

Road Cycling With a 15-mile scenic bicycle trip on trails and low-traffic streets. Bring a helmet. Meet at Richmond Marina Bay Park at [illegible] Regatta Blvd. and Marina Bay Pkwy. Sat., July 7, 1-4 p.m., free. Miller/Knox Shoreline, 900 Dornan Dr., Richmond. 888-327-2757, EBParks.org/Parks/Miller_Knox.

Summer Star Walk With a two-mile walk at the moonlight. Sat., July 7, 8:30 p.m. $3. Livermore Sycamore Grove/Veterans Park, 1051 Livermore Rd., Livermore. 925-960-2400, LARPD.[illegible]/open_space/sycamore.html

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Bay Area Derby Girls Bay Area Derby Girls All-Stars versus the Kansas City Roller Warriors. Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m. $14-$25, BayAreaDerbyGirls.com. Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. Craneway.com.

Boys in the Neighborhood: Oakland to Sobriety Featuring Drake versus Mega Man, [illegible] Arm Head versus Small Fight, [illegible] versus [illegible]. Fri., July 6, 8:30-11:30 p.m. $10. [illegible].com. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146, OaklandMetro.org.

Golden Gate Fields Dollar Days With dollar hot dogs and other dollar delights. Sundays, $1. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300, GoldenGateFields.com.

Oakland A's versus the Seattle Mariners. Fri., July 6, 7:05 p.m.; Sat., July 7, 7:10 p.m.; Sun., July 8, 1:05 p.m. $12-$290. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com.

So You Think You Can Hoop Oakland's three basketball competition. July 7-8, 8 a.m. [illegible] SoYouThinkYouCanHoop.com. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

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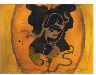
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Art Murmur Evolves

This month marks the first time 23rd Street will not be closed to traffic

The hugely happening monthly gallery crawl known as Oakland Art Murmur will have more art show openings than ever this month, and will be trying out some new strategies as well. For the first time, 23rd Street will not be closed to traffic. "Keeping 23rd Street open does not serve our mission," said Art Murmur Executive Director Danielle Fox. "When we are aiming to focus Oakland's attention on the galleries, we were putting too much time and money into the street fair aspect of 23rd and Telegraph."

This Friday will mark a year of remarkable accomplishments for Fox. Long gone are the days of a dozen galleries spread throughout the city, all clamoring for recognition. Murmur has now transformed into a world-class, citywide event that supports a huge audience and shows no sign of slowing down. The truth is that 23rd and Telegraph no longer defines Murmur. Murmur has expanded to more than thirty galleries spread out over three distinct neighborhoods. Here is our guide to the best off-the-beaten path gallery events that are sure to be hotspots this Friday night.


Detail of Freya Prowe's work

If you're feeling adventurous and are on foot, start at The Hive (301 Jefferson St., Oakland, HiveStudios.org), a studio warren of more than three dozen rising art stars in the East Bay scene, where Elizabeth Sarvano is showing her joyous paintings in her show, *Circo*.

Taste some wine around the corner at Urban Legend Cellars before strolling up Washington Street into popupshood, a cluster of oh-so-compelling little shops/galleries. At Crown Nine (401A 9th St., Oakland, CrownNine.com, 510-407-0789), Freya Prowe's *New Work* features brooding animal forms, primal yet whimsical, and deftly produced.

Next, head up Telegraph Avenue to *Word to Your Motherland*, a group show at Betti Ono Gallery (1804 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, BettiOno.Tumblr.com, 510-473-5919) showcasing hip-hop culture in India, with live performances.

Finally, make your way to 25th Street to check out Murmur's beating heart: Lauren McIntosh's *Famished Paintings* at Oakopolis (447 25th St., Oakland, Oakopolis.org, 510-663-6920), naive paintings that at first seem so sad, but upon closer inspection open up with fresh sentiments, and the 25th Street Hallway (for lack of a better term) — five galleries, including PHOTO, The Wall Gallery, Roscoe Ceramic Gallery, Mamu Gallery, and Slate Contemporary Gallery (473 25th St., Oakland, SlateContemporary.com, 510-652-4085), which will celebrate the opening of *Figure Form and Fiction*, a group show of conceptual takes on the human body. The whole trip should take about ninety minutes to two hours by foot, which puts you at the 25th Street galleries around 8 p.m., just when Murmur is at its most thrilling.

— Obi Kaufmann

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Albany: [illegible] The Garden: figure, form, and fauna exhibition features work by Jean Hearst, Jill Gibson, Christine Jennings, Karen Mason, [illegible], Katie McCann, Mollie Wolfe, [illegible], and Jacqueline Thompson. Through July 8. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

Albany Arts Gallery: [illegible] With hand-painted silk wall and window hangings, clothing, and accessories on display. Through July 31. 1221 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-526-1508. AlbanyArtsGallery.com.

Albany Community Center Arts Foyer Gallery: [illegible] Painting & and Story: With large acrylic paintings by Larry Kaufmann. July 7-Oct. 2. LarryKaufmann.com. 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9738. AlbanyCA.org/index.aspx?page=581.

Albatross Pub: Irene Brady Thomas: With oil paintings by the Oakland-based artist. Through July 31. IreneBradyThomas.com. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

Art and Alley at [illegible] Square, First Friday @ Temescal Square: With monthly art, whole artisanal food, live local music, and a showcase of independently owned shops. First Friday of every month, 6-10 p.m. 473-482 49th St., [illegible]

Bay Area Free Book Exchange: Pictures + Words: The final installment in a three-part exhibition. Berkeley local artists take on the words "book," "free," and "exchange." Part Three features work by [illegible]. Through July 14. [illegible] San Pablo Ave. [illegible] Center. [illegible]. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

[illegible] 2012, and Super Stock: With a low-powered mini radio theater, live performances, broadcast events, sales items and on-air contests. Through Aug. 12. $5, and [illegible]. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center: Collect!: With works by more than 70 artists, including [illegible], Robert Brady, [illegible], Tom Holland, Hung Liu, Tom McKinley, [illegible], Ray Saunders, Joe Slusky, and [illegible]. Through July 14. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch: From Above: With aerial photographs depicting landscapes of agricultural, industrial, and architectural subjects in the Bay Area and Albany by [illegible]. In the central catalog lobby. Through Sept. 4. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-7100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Bruns Amphitheater: Works in Nature: A sculpture installment with works by 12 [illegible], including Tom Franco, Susannah Israel, Patrick Sims, and [illegible]. Daily. 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Chabot Space & Science Center: [illegible] Sun as Art: With images [illegible] by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory and the NASA/ESA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory. Through Sept. 3. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, Oakland: [illegible] With sculptures and assemblage comprised of natural objects that are "gilded" with hand-dyed, crocheted yarn by Esther Traugot. Through July 27. **[illegible]** With graphite drawings and sculptural installation exploring the 40 shades of grey visible to the eye by Sheila Ghidini. Through July 27. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

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PICKS

Collective Art Show

Zero Friends Gallery (1486A 105th St., Oakland) is throwing a group show and appropriately calling it *Collective Art Show*. This is the kind of face-melting exhibition that young, obnoxious, know-it-all hipsters dream about, and since we're all one of those deep down, this is a show for you. Be warned, though: If you're frightened by images of cosmic horror, violent fantasy, and general awesomeness, then you should probably avoid it. Otherwise, come and be young and insane with a posse of the weirdest and most talented desperados the East Bay has ever produced — including Oakland's Brett Amory, Conrad a Marcos Lafarge, and Wall of Crow's Dave Correa — plus more than twenty other geniuses. Opening reception on Saturday, July 7, 7-11 p.m. Show runs through July 31. 510-735-9405 or ZeroFriends.com. — *Obi Kaufmann*

Detail of Alex Pardee's work at [illegible]

Brett Baumgart

Last month, self-taught artist Brett Baumgart unveiled his first-ever show of his paintings, at George Kaye's (4044 Broadway, Oakland). Baumgart has already accrued quite a following for his ability to tattoo startlingly real and (often horrific) images. The Livermore native is now moving into the world of fine art, and his uncanny sense of light and form is a welcome quality in a scene that's so often consumed with concept over technical skill. The venue Baumgart chose for his first show is a bar, so you'll have to be over 21 to get a peek at the Bay Area's next star of Realism — and it's in his neighborhood. Baumgart tattoos full-time at Premium Tattoo (4130 Broadway, Oakland). For more on the art of Brett Baumgart, follow him on Instagram @brettbaumgart. Show runs through July 31. — *O.K.*

CK Gallery: I Am American: Tibet [illegible]: The Eye of All Artist A [illegible] exhibit featuring works by James Gayles, [illegible], [illegible], Marion Coleman, Merle Turner, [illegible], and [illegible]. July 8-29. 8150 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-758-2535. CKGallery.org.

The Compound Gallery & Exhibit: In Bad Taste With works [illegible], the [illegible] and [illegible] has imposed on [illegible] and the natural world, by Crystal Morey. Through July 15. 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-601-1700. TheCompoundGallery.com.

[illegible] Black Market Gallery: Film Friday Series Featuring work by [illegible], co-creators Marcel Diallo, [illegible], and [illegible]. First Friday of every month, 8 p.m. [illegible] St. 510-[illegible].

Oakland: Creative Growth Art Center: [illegible] With works by artists with disabilities that [illegible] the relationship between [illegible], and final product. Through Aug. 9. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

Crucible Engine Studio & Gallery: [illegible] Solo Show With paintings of East Bay and San Francisco [illegible], [illegible], Chicago, the [illegible], and more. Saturdays. Through July 1. 409 Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-[illegible]. CrucibleEngine.org.

Emeryville Village [illegible]: Spaces and Places The second annual juried exhibition features [illegible] of real [illegible] and [illegible] spaces and display by 41 artists. Through Aug. 8. 233 [illegible] St. [illegible]. 925-314-3450. [illegible]

[illegible] Center: Thinking Like a River: Art, Advocacy, and the Library of Work. [illegible] With artists photography by Bill Cartwright, landscape photography by Joseph Holmes, and exhibit [illegible] by Bower. On display in the Hazel Wolf Gallery. Through Aug. 26. 2150 [illegible], Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

[illegible] College: Sacred Art of Tibet: Art of the [illegible] [illegible] College's first public exhibition [illegible], paintings, [illegible], lithographs, [illegible] and [illegible] reproductions. Along with [illegible], photographs of Tibet and other art works. Through Sept. 30. 2222 Harold Way, Berkeley. 510-809-[illegible]. [illegible]College.com.

[illegible]: Music [illegible] With explosive and [illegible] painting [illegible] and [illegible]. Through July 28. 601 Washington St., Oakland. 510-972-8118. [illegible]

Doug [illegible] Gallery: Mining the Collection: Dimensions of Dark With paintings, sculptural installations and drawings inspired by the natural world by English artist Catherine Richardson. Through Aug. 24. 1796 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-8935. [illegible]

[illegible] Center and Art Gallery: An [illegible] Moment in Time With hand-printed black-and-white photography by Janeyce Duchene. Through Aug. 31. **An [illegible] Moment in Time** With hand-printed black-and-white photography by Janeyce Duchene. Through Aug. 31. 3801 [illegible], Oakland. 510-535-2700. [illegible]

FM: [illegible] Land With paintings [illegible] the world of cartoons by [illegible]. July 6-28. 486 23rd St., Oakland. FMOakland.com.

[illegible]: [illegible] Pleaso, But Then... With photographs by Howard Barkan. Through July 31. 1538 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-9930.

George Kaye's: Brett Baumgart Paintings The self-taught Premium Tattoo artist [illegible] exhibit of paintings. Through July 31. 4048 Broadway, Oakland. 510-547-9388.

[illegible] of East [illegible], at the [illegible] of Hiroshima: [illegible]: Breath of Life With drawings of scenes from daily life by Japanese school children [illegible], the bombing of Hiroshima, which were sent as a thank-you gift to the All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D.C. for the aid it had provided them. Through Sept. 12. 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-6550. [illegible]

Johansson Projects: Vampires & Wolfman With new work by Anna Fidler. Through Aug. 4. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

[illegible] Art [illegible]: [illegible] Reflections With photographs by [illegible] Sugimoto. Through Aug. 10. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-817-5700. [illegible]

Joyce Gordon Gallery: Pay it Forward With works [illegible] the [illegible] that started in 1990 between Mel Rosen and Gabriel Naver. Through July 28. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Kala Art Institute Gallery: On Work: New Work from Kala With works in a variety of media by Kala Art Institute artists-in-residence, [illegible] Antonelli, Carrie Hott, Mary Anne Kluth, [illegible] McCluskey, Anna McClure, Nora Pauwels, [illegible] Schaeben, and more. Through Sept. 15. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000. Kala.org.

Kehl [illegible] Art. Wall With new paintings by Elsa Colcock. Through July 14. 812 22nd St., [illegible]. 510-695-0133. [illegible]

Lanesplitter Pub and Pizza: Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha: [illegible] With It With new works by [illegible] Conner. Through July 31. 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-653-5350. [illegible]

Latham Square Building: Jill Bolinder With paintings and drawings depicting [illegible] in Oakland. Through Sept. 14. 1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-836-8787. ProArtsGallery.org.

[illegible] & Rose: a [illegible], Ugly Baby [illegible] With a collection of [illegible] paintings and [illegible] by [illegible] Hawk, [illegible]. Through July 6. 461 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-214-6[illegible]. MarionAndRose.com.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] With [illegible] exploring the [illegible] and [illegible] by John Mather. Through July [illegible]. **Along the Lines and Public Displays** With photographs from two bodies of work in progress by Paul Mueller. Through July 28. **Michigan** With works by the gallery's Michigan-born artists [illegible], Jady [illegible], Kevin Vander Meer, and Mary [illegible], exploring their home state through various media. Through July 28. [illegible] 27th St., Oakland. 510-464-7785. [illegible]

Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts: The [illegible] Castle [illegible] With works by Amir Michael Carey, [illegible], Viktor Kuhlman, Gary Lapow, [illegible] Karen Lulu Smith, Marvin [illegible], Tom Tuttle, Debbie Vinograd, Charles [illegible], and Shane Weare. Celebrating the [illegible] of Ariel Parkinson's new book, [illegible]. Through July 28. 1747 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-4380. MythosFineArt.com.

[illegible] Center: [illegible] With gouache [illegible] paper by Louis [illegible] and a [illegible] by Margot [illegible]. Through July 9. 841 23rd St., Oakland. 510-834-8100. [illegible]

[illegible] & Gallery: The [illegible] and [illegible] With art by Chaz and Olli. Through July 15. 362 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-834-2704. [illegible]

PhotoCentral Gallery and Collection: The Golden Gate Bridge: Then and Now With original vintage photographs of the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge by photographer Milton C. Taylor. Through Sept. 29. 1099 E St., Hayward. 510-881-6721. PhotoCentral.org.

Photolab Gallery: The Blues Ain't Nothin... With black-and-white photographs of Blues culture by Tim [illegible]. Through Aug. 18. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-644-1100. PhotoLaboratory.com.

popUp Gallery: Still Life: A New Point of View With seven Bay Area artists' takes on the classic art of still life. Artists include Sue Averell, Gabriele Bungardt, [illegible], Mi'Chelle Fredrick, [illegible], Chris Tedesco, and Elizabeth [illegible]. July 6-28. 1517 Park St., Alameda. [illegible]

Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement: Creative Community Collages of [illegible] Communities With images of neighbors and their [illegible] from East, West, and North Oakland by visual artist [illegible]. Through July 21. 920 Peralta St., Oakland. 510-208-1812.

Pro Arts Gallery: Bay Area [illegible] 2012: Think it's [illegible] But Work in [illegible] Art With works by Toreya Cummings, [illegible], Adrienne Heinrich, [illegible], [illegible], Ad Salemen, Sofia Sharpe, [illegible], Kate Thompson, Chris Thorsen, and [illegible]. Through Aug. 24. **Oakland Art Night** Pro Arts extends its gallery hours in conjunction with Oakland's Art Night. First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. ProArtsGallery.org. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Richmond Art Center: ACGA [illegible] Show A collaboration with the Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California, on display in the West Gallery. Through Aug. 11. **Roy the Mermaid** With [illegible] works by Nancy [illegible] Olson, on display in the South Gallery. Through Aug. 11. **[illegible] 94801: [illegible] and Triangle** With works spanning three decades by Frederick Franklin [illegible] both the struggles and successes of Richmond's [illegible] neighborhood, on display in the Community Gallery. Through Aug. 17. **Richmond Art Center Annual Members' Show** With works by more than 170 [illegible] and art by the members [illegible], Albert [illegible], Suzanne Locke, and William [illegible], in the main gallery. Through Aug. 17. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Root Division: [illegible] 2 for 2: Three Summer Residencies With June artist-in-residence George Pfau, whose multi-disciplinary practice contemplates the human body, the notion of [illegible] and our [illegible] conversations about the walking dead. Through July 8. 4321 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-[illegible]. [illegible]

Ruby's Cafe: Pandemonium With acrylic paintings by Jennifer [illegible]. Through July 7. 3733 [illegible] St., Emeryville.

The Pablo Art Gallery: [illegible] Show With paintings and sculptures by Wayne Armstrong, Diane James, and [illegible] Weber. Through Aug. 5. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo.

[illegible]: Tag Team: Exhumed A retrospective featuring the decade-long collaboration between painter Tim [illegible] and sculptor Walter Robinson. July 6-Aug. 18. 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-452-4918. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery: I'm Looking at Things, Empty and Otherwise A [illegible] exhibition of [illegible] works by Ethan Katz and [illegible] that negotiate and [illegible] unbound space. Through July 8. 465 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2181. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery: Ultra Ice With fine art photographs of Patagonia by Amanda [illegible] and Carl Brown. Through July 15. [illegible] Center Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-3685. [illegible]

Tilden Park Environmental Education Center: [illegible] Art Week With works celebrating nature [illegible] by professional and amateur artists. Through Aug. 31. North end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism: Valley of Shadows & Dreams An exhibition of contemporary photographs from Ken and Melanie Light's book, which highlights socioeconomic issues in California's Central Valley. Through Aug. 3. ValleyofShadowsandDreams.com. 121 North Gate Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-3388. Journalism.Berkeley.edu.

Uptown District: Saturday Stroll A weekly companion to Art Murmur, but with fewer festivities and more focus on the galleries. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating Oakland galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 23rd St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery: Majestic: The Badlands With [illegible]'s [illegible] exhibit that [illegible] her homeland of New Mexico by exploring the history of uranium mining in the region and its effects on the Native American reservations within and nearby. Through July 29. 1300 3rd St., Berkeley. 510-526-5201. [illegible]Gallery.Blogspot.com.

MUSEUMS

African American Museum and Library of Oakland: The Way of the [illegible] An exhibit highlighting [illegible] and collecting. Through Nov. 10. **[illegible] Museum** An [illegible] of the living art form with techniques and [illegible]. Through July 28. 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0200. OaklandLibrary.org/AAMLO.

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco: In a New Light These works from the museum's collection represent an [illegible] in the major cultures of Asia. Daily. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive: The Oakland-Berkeley and Af[illegible] Photographs by [illegible]. Through Oct. 5. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: [illegible] of the Land of Snows** Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Historical Society: Early Days of Japanese in the East Bay With photographs of various East Bay Japanese [illegible] from 1890 onward. Through Sept. 29. 1931 Center St., Berkeley. 510-848-0181. [illegible]

Children's Creativity Museum: [illegible] Jam A hands-on exhibit for kids and provides safe access to film, media, and technology. Daily. 221 4th St., San Francisco. 415-820-3320. CreativityMuseum.org.

Exploratorium: Traits of Life A permanent exhibit and demonstrations examining the fundamental [illegible] common to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0360. Exploratorium.edu.

Habitot Children's Museum: [illegible] Gallery Artwork of Roger Goldenberg's painting, [illegible], *The Big [illegible] vs. The Missing Pieces*. Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology: Work by Maker's Hand From the permanent collection. A selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus locations in Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **Native California Textiles** The [illegible] exhibit comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collection of native Californian cultures. Daily. 103 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.Berkeley.edu.

Museum of [illegible] Art, Oakland: [illegible] An ongoing group show. Daily. **[illegible] Art: [illegible] Enchanted** A [illegible] art piece, in mosaic. Daily. [illegible] Chapman St., Oakland. 510-437-9899. [illegible]

Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles: [illegible] An exhibition of antique and vintage lace, [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Aug. 8. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

Lawrence Hall of Science: [illegible] With an exhibition highlighting the science behind extreme sports. Through Sept. 3. **[illegible] on a Sphere (SOS)** New permanent exhibit features an animated globe [illegible] across the seasons, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. $8-$10. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life: Projections Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of archival documentary and experimental films. Daily. **The Magnes Effect: Five Decades of Collecting** The first exhibition in the Charles Michael Gallery retraces the fifty-year history of collecting, highlighting documents and artifacts that represent the evolution of the "Magnes effect." Through Aug. 10. **Memory Lab** [illegible] installation allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and [illegible]. Daily. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. [illegible]

Oakland International Airport: Spanning the Bay A juried exhibition of artwork depicting the bridges of the Bay Area, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. Through Sept. 7. 1 Airport Dr., Oakland.

Oakland Museum of California: Question Bridge: Black Males A video installation featuring interviews with 150 Black men in eleven cities across the US. The exhibition [illegible] themes of family, love, interracial relationships, community, education, violence, and more. Through July 8. Museum admission. **[illegible] Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes** The first major survey of the Oakland-based [illegible], original drawings and artifacts [illegible]. Through Aug. 12. **The 1968 Exhibit** A multimedia exhibition examining the events of 1968, a turning point for a generation coming of age and a nation at war. Through Aug. 19. Museum admission. **All of Us or None: Social Justice Posters of the San Francisco Bay Area** A comprehensive [illegible] the poster renaissance of the mid-1960s, with [illegible] original posters as well as posters digitally printed and collaged on the gallery walls. Through Aug. 19. Museum admission. **Gallery of California Art** With more than 800 works from the OMCA collection. Through Dec. 2. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Public Library: Lost Amusement Parks of the East Bay With photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings, and other memorabilia depicting the history of Emeryville's Shell Mound Park, Oakland's Idora Park, and Alameda's Neptune Beach. Through July 7. 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: Adventures in the Development of Pinball With pinball-themed physics, mechanics, electronics, art, and history exhibits. Through July 8. **[illegible] Exhibit** With 15 [illegible] and 20 [illegible] from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early [illegible] from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon [illegible]. Daily. $15. [illegible] 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6959. PacificPinball.org.

Peralta Hacienda Historical Park: Rhythm of the [illegible]: A Cambodian [illegible] Gallery An exhibit exploring Cambodian families and the political upheaval that occurred in the country in the 1970s. With works by Oakland-based Cambodian [illegible] and more. Through Oct. 31. 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142. PeraltaHacienda.org.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: [illegible] and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by Matisse, Mondrian, Pollock, Rauschenberg, Rivera, [illegible], et al. Daily. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collection. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings, photos by [illegible] Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Stieglitz, et al. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

USS Hornet Museum: Artist Soldiers' [illegible] Exploring photos and memorabilia telling the story of the nisei (second-generation Japanese-American) troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. **The Avenger Work** Gallery [illegible] restored by volunteers. Daily. 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org. ●

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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

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Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday July 6th

ALAMEDA

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1601 Paru St

Redux Studio & Galleries
2315 Lincoln Ave

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Gathering Tribes
1412 Solano Ave.

BERKELEY

Berkeley Art Museum
2626 Bancroft Way

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave.

Urbanity
1687 Solano Ave

OAKLAND

4707 Gallery
4707 Telegraph

57th Street Gallery
5701 Telegraph Ave

Anna Edwards Gallery
257 East 14th St.

Actual Café
6334 San Pablo Ave

Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Ave

Book Zoo
14 Glen Ave.

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Ave

The Compound Gallery
1167 65th St

The Crucible @ Cathedral Gallery
1615 Broadway

Forthrite Gallery
5857 San Pablo Ave

Gamma Space
6608 San Pablo Ave.

Hatch
492 23rd St.

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th St

Kuhl Frames + Art
412 22nd St

The Layover
1517 Franklin St.

Lirelle
3980 Piedmont Ave

LoBot Gallery
1600 Campbell St.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway

Macarthur Barthur
4030 MLK Way

Paradise Lounge
2272 Telegraph Ave.

RAW Gallery
1951 Telegraph Ave.

Red Door Gallery
416 25th St

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave

Rooz Café
1918 Park Blvd.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery
4231 Telegraph

Smokey's Tangle
4709 Telegraph Ave

Somar Bar and Lounge
1727 Telegraph Ave.

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
1628 Webster St

Sticks +Stones
815 Broadway

Studio One Art Center
365 45th St.

The Swee(t)Art

Drawing Gallery
6002 San Pablo Ave.

Tech Liminal
268 14th St

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St.

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5940 College Ave.

OAKLAND ART MURMUR

Betti Ono Gallery & Shop
1604 Telegraph Ave.

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave

Classic Cars West
411 26th St.

Creative Growth
355 24th St.

Crown Nine Jewelers and Makers
461A 9th St.

Era Art Bar
19 Grand Ave

Farley's East
33 Grand Avenue

FM Gallery
483 25th St

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on Grand Ave between Broadway and Valley

The Hive
351 Jefferson St.

Johansson Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave.

Krowswork Gallery
480 23rd St.

Manna Gallery
473 25th Street, Suite B

Marion & Rose's Workshop
461 9th St.

Mercury 20
475 25th St.

The Moon
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Oaklandish
1444 Broadway

Oakopolis
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Photo
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ProArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Res Ipsa
455 17th St., 3rd Floor

Roscoe Ceramic Gallery
473 25th Street, Suite 5

Shadravan's Art Gallery
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SLATE Contemporary
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385 25th St.

Swarm Studios & Gallery
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Telegraph
2318 Telegraph Ave

Urban Legend Cellars
621 4th St

Vessel Gallery
471 25th St

The Wall Gallery
473 25th St.

Warehouse 416
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SAN LEANDRO

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611 Washington St.

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to Promotions@EastBayExpress.com to be included in the August directory.

EAST BAY EXPRESS

TRUMER PILS

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Open Mi Comedy weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., one-drink minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland. 510-473-6859. ContinentalComedy.com.

Stone Soup Improv Live improv fashion and short games with novel storytelling. Sat., July 7, 8-10 p.m. $7-$10. 510-367-6806. StoneSoupImprov.com. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824. BFUU.org.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Show by LeRoy Stanfield Jr. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m. GoBabyProductions.com. Island Paradise Club, 1436 Webster St., Alameda. 510-869-3225. IparadiseClub.com.

Sylvan Productions Comedy with a rotating line-up of comedians. Open mic sign-ups at 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, 9-10:30 p.m. Free. Vitus, 201 Broadway, Oakland. 510-452-1609. VitusOakland.com.

The Untold Story Weekly improv comedy. Additional show preceding event at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 9 p.m. $10-$12. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-238-1641. PanTheater.com.

LIVE VARIETY

Oakland Nights... Live! Talk show-style salon in which audience members discuss topics that "they know a lot about and you know less about." This month's theme: "Cassandrants." At the backyard of 3911 Clarke St., Oakland. Sat., July 7, 7:30-10 p.m. Free. 510-595-5537. OaklandNightsLive.com.

Seduction Force's Big Phat Two-Year Anniversary Show Some Oakland hosts a live-nature dancing show with party mascots by Kahu a Meary, Alexis Von Fleece, Sheba Queen of the Night, Kaya Wake, Rose DeLish, Maude Ye Bouxs, Sissy Bi Jay, Kiwan for Cream, Honey LeBang, Una Hyde, Manaderei, and Yoda a Coo de Boo. With live music by Tu Ji ang Marilyn Tao. July 10, 8-11 p.m. $7. 510-918-0510. MoonMountainProductions.com. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

Tourettes Without Regrets Jamie and Stevie DeWolf host a live variety show with "sandpr juggling" by the Flow Encounters, a City Circus B-boy versus B-Girl dance battle, comedy by Alex Koll and Emily Heller, Vietnamese Burlesque by Teeka Faulk, Jimy Johnson Flag, by MC Cupcake, and more. Thu., July 5, 8:30 p.m. $15. TourettesWithoutRegrets.com. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more theatrical events
at EastBayExpress.com
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THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Don Reed's *The Kipling Hotel: True Misadventures of the Electric Pink 80s* Reed's one-man show about his misadventures throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at wooing as a rapper and a gigolo in the cast as a live-in waiter at a retirement hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m., Sundays, 1 p.m. Continues through July 15. $25-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

Emotional Creature Jo Bonney directs the world premiere of Eve Ensler's new play, comprised of original monologues and songs about and for girls. Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m., Thursdays, 2 & 8 p.m. Continues through July 12. $20-$93. Roda Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Girl for Ding Lee Shotgun performance office's Pam Moore leads a "literal" audience park mystery experiment" with improvisational musicians, actors, Addison and audience members. Bring a musical instrument. Sat., July 7, 8-11 p.m. Free. 510-529-7850. LiliPlay.com. Temescal Art Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-923-1074. TemescalArtCenter.org.

Salomania Mark Jackson directs his play about Maud Allan, a San Francisco dancer who took Europe by storm in the early 1900s and became notoriously known as "The Salomé Dancer." Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m., Tuesdays, 7 p.m., through July 29. 8 p.m. Sun., July 29, 2 p.m. Continues through July 22. $30-$55. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

Spring Awakening The Tony Award-winning indie-rock retelling of Frank Wedekind's controversial 1892 play which follows a group of teens coming to terms with the new sensations and emotional turmoil that accompany adolescence. Sundays, 2 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through July 15. $15-$22. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda. 510-523-1553. Altarena.org.

Travels With My Aunt John Hull directs Graham Greene's play about a mild-mannered retired bank manager and his eccentric aunt. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Through July 7. $20. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

Vaudeville Willows Theatre presents the regional premiere of Laurence Dean's "play-with-music" about a group of small-time actors in 1912 Philadelphia hoping to make it big. Sundays, 2 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m. Continues through July 21. $25-$30. WillowsTheatre.org. Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward St., Martinez. 925-798-1300.

The Word Through Your Life Featuring "Surrogate Bodies," the first in a three-part performance art salon. With Laura Zuspan, Jen Cohen, Lorna Lerbus, and Nancy Frost. Fri., July 6, 8-9 p.m. Free. Krowswork, 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-229-0… Krowswork.com.

David Allen

PICK

Salomania

Six years after his resurrection of the Oscar Wilde play *Salomé*, director Mark Jackson returns with an ambitious sequel. This time he focuses on the story of dancer Maud Allan, a San Francisco-raised artist who caused a stir with her own interpretation of Wilde's opus, which she premiered in Vienna in 1906. Allan's *Vision of Salomé* was taken as a provocation and derided in a right-wing tabloid, which ran a review of the performance under the headline "The Cult of the Clitoris." Allan sued the paper's editor, Noel Pemberton Billing, for libel, unaware that he would use the courtroom as a platform to expound on his own conspiracy theories about Germans and gays (he accused her of belonging to or sympathizing with both groups). Jackson dramatizes the whole trial with a script based on original court transcripts. Madeline H.D. Brown looks serene and regal as Allan, Mark Anderson Phillips plays the petulant Pemberton Billing, Kevin Clarke, as the judge, milks all his lines for prurience and comic effect. Jackson juxtaposes the court story with an ancillary plot about World War I and the air of paranoia it generated. Nina Ball's set is deceptively simple and endlessly mutable. Through July 29 at Aurora Theatre (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). $30-$48. 510-843-4822 or AuroraTheatre.org. — *Rachel Swan*

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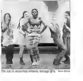
THEATER REVIEW

THE EMOTIONAL ZEAL OF EVE ENSLER

Emotional Creature is terrific as a screed, but unsatisfying as a play

By Rachel Swan


The actors accurately embody teenage girls. Kevin Berne

This month the Addison Street arts corridor was overtaken by gaggles of girls, their mothers, and a small clutch of guys who — and I'm not being facetious — don't mind getting in touch with their "inner girl." The draw? Eve Ensler's *Emotional Creature*, the latest from American pop culture's most famous vagina monologist, now enjoying its world premiere at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Ensler based the new play on a book of fictional stories and soliloquies inspired by interviews she conducted with young women from all parts of the world. Themes ranged from the banal — popularity envy, vanity — to more sobering concerns — rape, sex trafficking, female genital mutilation — but the playwright regarded them all with the same earnest vehemence she'd bestow on any feminist issue. She ultimately transformed the book into a play in which a multiracial all-girl ensemble presents a series of first-person testimonials, all penned by Ensler but persuasively rendered by the performers. It's captivating, even if the execution far outweighs the script.

The problem with Ensler is that she views every artistic forum as a soapbox, so no matter how impassioned or entertaining or electrifying her material, that evangelistic impulse will always shine through. That was a defining factor in *The Vagina Monologues*, which is all about teaching women — well, society — not to fear their genitalia, and which eventually spawned an activist movement called V-Day, through which Ensler and her ilk attempted to curb violence against women.

And *Emotional Creature* falls in the same vein. It's a mix of drama and comedy, much of it accompanied by dizzying video montages or explosive song-and-dance numbers, all intended to shore up sentiment and create an atmosphere of female empowerment. But underneath that show-biz veneer you can always sense the 59-year-old author issuing directives and whacking us on the head with her political messages.

Show Details
Through July 15 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $14.50-$73. BerkeleyRep.org

That's apparent from the play's preamble, actually a list of statistics projected on video screens that line the stage. They provide a rather dismal account of the calamities facing young women: the death rate from anorexia, the recent uptick in plastic surgery for teens (mostly boob jobs and rhinoplasties), the shockingly high frequency of rape and domestic violence. Ensler throws in a few more stats for good measure, even if they serve more to indict women than defend them — when asked to name their hobbies, she said, 80 percent of teenage girls named "shopping" as number one. (Ketchum Global Research Network drummed up the same stat in a 2010 poll, although granted "reading" was a close number two.) Just maddening.

That, and the giant clip-art pictures of cupcakes, sets the tone for Ensler's ninety-minute play, which was directed by Jo Bonney and which features a score by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder. It starts off light: The cast members play a game of "Would You Rather ...?" to introduce the themes of their play (e.g. "Would you rather be the most beautiful or the most brilliant?") and follow it up with a skit about social cliques in high school narrated by actor Molly Carden. The first few vignettes all center on issues that might resonate for an American audience: loyalty and gamesmanship, contraception, societal obsessions with beauty, the pressure to be thin. They're depicted with remarkable verisimilitude by actors who can accurately mimic the speech patterns of real teenage girls and who occasionally veer into poetry: "Pretty girls are just swimming like goldfish in a bowl," Sade Namei muses, in a monologue about a forced nose job.

About a third of the way through it gets grim, first with Carden's depiction of a sex slave from Eastern Europe (and a single eye projected in the background), then with Joaquina Kalukango's recounting of rape and torture in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These parts are extremely moving — mostly because of the way in which each actor inhabits her role — but they have the tenor of a political speech, rather than a play. And that's where the voice of Ensler starts creeping in.

"When I was growing up, I was told that I was too hysterical, that I was too alive, that I was too dramatic," she recalled during a recent phone interview, when asked to explain the etiology of her term "emotional creature." Since then, she's been intent on letting her voice fill a room, occasionally at the expense of her characters' voices — or of the narrative cohesion in her plays. *Emotional Creature* is terrific as a screed. It's inspiring, the music is giddy and propulsive, and Myung Hee Cho's set and Shawn Sagady's video work provide a vibrant subtext for every scene. If that was Ensler's intent, then by all means she's succeeded. But if she wants to make a great play, she'll eventually have to stop exhorting and hectoring. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES&LIT

Beats, Rhythms, and Life

Oakland native Umi Vaughan gets to the heart of bata

You've heard and maybe participated in drum circles — on Sproul Plaza, at parties, as part of La Peña Cultural Center performances. But traditional bata drumming, which plays a central role in some traditional African and Cuban cultures, is different. And unless you're already a mindful practitioner, what you've heard from these double-headed, hourglass-shaped drums only scratches the surface. An anthropologist, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Cal State University Monterey Bay, and lifelong dancer and drummer (his mother Deborah Vaughan founded Oakland's Dimensions Dance Theater 35 years ago), Umi Vaughan began formally studying the three batá drums in the mid-1990s, when Carlos Aldama appeared on the Bay Area scene. Aldama, a traditional bata drummer trained by a line of master drummers in the Yoruba (also known as Santeria) tradition, emigrated from Cuba where he was a self-proclaimed "slave to the drum" during the golden age of bata. Vaughan had studied videos of Aldama's performances with Conjunto Folklorico Nacional de Cuba and immediately sought out Aldama and apprenticed himself.

Carlos Aldama and Umi Vaughan

"No matter how talented you are, it's important to learn firsthand from someone who's done it themselves," Vaughan said. "I would listen to the story he would tell between rhythms and could tell it was part of an untold story. After five or six years we decided his story should and would be a book project."

The result, *Carlos Aldama's Life in Batá: Cuba, Diaspora and the Drum*, covers incredible history and tradition in its slender 150 pages. Vaughan captures everything the subtitle proclaims, but the heart comes directly from Aldama's own still-feisty voice, whether he's detailing the traditional *toques* — ritual musical gatherings at which batá drumming takes place to call down the *orisha* (deities), to ask the *santos* (saints) for help, and to confirm new initiates into the community — or telling tales about Havana/Matanzas rivals showing off their skills. The drumming is not just for fun. There's a specific purpose to every session, and drummers are absolutely serious about their beats, their teachers, and the sacred drums themselves. "Drums are not played in order to have a party, but rather to make sacrifice," Aldama once told Vaughan.

"So often, people think of 'real musicians' only as those trained in the Western tradition, but I wanted to emphasize that, like the great classical traditions from Europe, this West African/Caribbean tradition requires apprenticeships, vast knowledge, restraint, and precision," Vaughan said. "Counter to what a lot of people think, it's not just banging on drums at all." He compares witnessing a performance by a drummer like Aldama to watching dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov onstage: "Oh — shit!" The book serves as a fitting entry point into the form. Anyone from practicing drummers and anthropologists to those who just love ideas and books can easily be transported into the batá life through Vaughan, Aldama, and their accompanying online music samples. "My hope is that ... it's enough to inspire more people to learn with respect," Vaughan said, "enough to help the tradition to live rather than die out or become solely for entertainment or recording."

"The Bay Area is a special place ... to watch in unordering the transition of the culture from Africa to Cuba and the US and beyond." It's also a good place to learn from Aldama in person; he lives in San Leandro, offers lessons in San Francisco, and performs throughout the Bay Area. CarlosAldama.com

LECTURES

Arvind Kumar: "Locally Native Plants for the SF Bay Area" The president of the Santa Clara Valley chapter of the California Native Plant Society discusses various native plants and which ones are easy to grow. Sat., July 11, 7-8:30 p.m. Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont. 510-745-1401.

Belva Davis: "A Black Woman's Life in Journalism" The first Black TV journalist in the West discusses her experience covering events like the Berkeley student protests and the birth of the Black Panthers. Tue., July 10, 7:30 p.m. $7-$22. Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-2240. LafayetteLLC.org.

Dr. Bernie Krause: "The Great Animal Orchestra" The musician and naturalist discusses the [illegible] pursuit of nature music in his [illegible]. Tue., July 10, 7 p.m. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196. RevolutionBooks.org.

Laura Cunningham: "State of Change: Forgotten Landscapes of California" The author and naturalist discusses her illustrated book about what California was like before European contact. Mon., July 9, 7-8 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

Panel Discussion: "Three Professors, One Researcher, One Moderator, and a Devil's Gaze" Spectrum Magazine discusses a topical panel [illegible] policy change with UC Berkeley professors of public policy [illegible] and [illegible] investigative journalist Thomas Peele, and a surprise guest. Thu., July 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. 831-402-1058. SpectrumMagazine.org. La Belvue [illegible], 2820 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-1106. [illegible]

LITERARY EVENTS

Alameda Great Books Club Meets in the library's family study room. Second Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak St., Alameda. 510-747-7711. CityofAlamedaCA.gov/Library.

Alameda Island Poets and Writers Reading by [illegible] featuring poets Mary Loughran and Bill Jowell. Thu., July 5, 1 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Alameda's Young Adult Book Club Discussing [illegible]. Ages 13 and up. Tue., July 10, 1 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Bay Area Poets Coalition Open Reading First Saturday of every month, 3-5 p.m. Free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-841-8338.

[illegible] Willow Wilson Reading from her new novel *Alif The Unseen*. Wed., July 11, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace. [illegible] com.

Brunch Bunch Book Discussion Group A monthly literary [illegible] for adults. Call library for current title. Second Tuesday of every month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Elmhurst Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

First Saturday Book Club Discussing [illegible] Brooks' novel. Sat., July 7, 9:30 a.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 510-768-1201. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, [illegible] San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-815-1201. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Holla Back and Speakeasy 55 Thursdays Open mic poetry followed at 10:30 p.m. by dancing, poetry, rap, food, live DJs, and more. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629. EastsideArtsAlliance.com.

Jack Hirschman and Mark [illegible] Reading from their [illegible] works of poetry. Fri., July 6, 8 p.m. $10 donation. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

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Published by Reagan Arthur Books, 2/1/12

In One Person

By John Irving

$26.00

John Irving's newest takes calls upon several of his signature themes, wrestling, a literary protagonist, struggle with sexual identity and an evocative New England backdrop. Nevertheless, the half-century account of his protagonist Billy provides a bracing, and riveting spectrum of emotion, to his experiences love for a transgender woman and proximity to AIDS during the initial years of crisis. — L. T.

Published by Simon & Schuster 5/8/12

Wonder

By R. J. Palacio

$15.99

I can't recommend this Young Adult novel highly enough. It's hilarious and touching and sad. Anyone who has ever felt different, or felt left out, or had to take a stand for what they believe in will be able to relate to Auggie Pullman. I could not put it down. — B. R.

Published by Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2/14/12

BLACK OAK STAFF PICKS:

Twilight of The Elites: America After Meritocracy

By Christopher Hayes

$26.00

Hayes claims that we are suffering the effects of being governed by "the best and brightest," redux, and our current crop of meritocratic rulers are just as screwed up as the ones that got us into Vietnam. Hayes also notes that a meritocracy built on "objective testing" is always doomed because, for example, by giving their children test preparation and fancy schools, the previous generation of "meritocrats" will load the dice for their offspring. This book is thought provoking and very worthwhile!

Published by Crown, 6/12/12

The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future

By Joseph E. Stiglitz

$27.95

Stiglitz along with Krugman are the candles in the darkness that is most of modern macroeconomics. In this his latest book, he takes up how our growing inequality happened and why it has to be stopped both for moral and for practical reasons. He ends with some reasoned suggestions on what we can do to slow our growing inequality. Stiglitz's books, which speak truth to power, should obviously be contrasted with the next book I review, the totally evil *Unintended Consequences* by Romney's compadre Edward Conard.

Published by W. W. Norton & Co., 6/11/12

Unintended Consequences: Why Everything You've Been Told About the Economy Is Wrong

By Edward Conard

$27.95

I am tempted to say that since I read this book, you don't have to. This book is simply a 19th century Social Darwinist tract updated for the 21st century. It's Ayn Rand without the silly plots: the rich have to get richer, else they stop innovating. Consumption taxes are bad because the rich need to be able to display the results of their noble activities or they won't innovate, etc. etc. ad nauseum. And yet I recommend you read it. Why? Because this guy was a managing director at Bain Capital and worked closely with Mitt and forewarned is forearmed.

Published by Penguin, 6/7/12

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PICKS

Beast Crawl

It's "East Bay" in reverse-engineered Pig Latin, but it's also more pertinently one of the most ambitious and exciting lit events to come to the East Bay: 125 writers representing a wide swath of genres, reading at 25 different venues, over the course of a single day — Saturday, July 7 — in what organizers are billing as the East Bay's premiere literary pub crawl. The idea, according to Hollie Hardy, one of the event's organizers, was to unite the East Bay's disparate micro-scenes and "help create a literary identity for Oakland because we deserve it." Mission accomplished, judging by the lineup. The Beast has four legs (yes, 1-4), the first three of which present a slate of readings at various bars, restaurants, and cafes within walking distance of each other in and around Uptown, and the last of which is sure to be the smartly-pantsed party you've ever been to at Club Paradiso (2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) at 9 p.m. We're particularly excited for the Red Dirt, Frank Bette, Small Press Distribution, and Tourettes Without Regrets events, but you're welcome to tackle the Beast however you like. See website for full map and schedule. Free. BeastCrawl.tumblr.com — *Ellen Cushing*

Kaya Oakes with Conspiracy of Beards

Radical Reinvention: An Unlikely Return to the Catholic Church is about a progressive, punk rock, proudly lapsed Catholic who, in midlife, finds her way back to the church — in spite of herself and in the face of her own misgivings about the Vatican and its politics. Suffice it to say this isn't your standard religion memoir. So it's fitting that when author Kaya Oakes — cofounder of the dearly departed magazine *Kitchen Sink* and currently a lecturer at UC Berkeley — comes to Moe's Books (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Wednesday, July 11, it'll be a rather heretical version of the standard-issue, indie-voiced author reading. Namely, she'll be backed by Conspiracy of Beards, a thirty-member a cappella group that traffics entirely in Leonard Cohen songs. Yup, you read that right. 7:30 p.m. free. 510-849-2087 or MoesBooks.com — *S.C.*

Kaya Oakes

Occupy Our Minds

Brand new this year, Oakland-based *Specimen* magazine is concerned with the fascinating, often difficult work of examining and questioning university life — though thus far as a print-only, entirely two-dimensional publication. That all changes on Thursday, July 5, with the first panel discussion in its new series, titled "Occupy Our Minds: Politics, Policy, Perception," in which UC Berkeley professors of public policy Jack Glaser and Larry Rosenthal join *Tribune* reporter Thomas Peele and a surprise guest to discuss "what kind of policy change is a realistic response to some of the public grievances bubbling up right now" at Le Bateau Ivre (2629 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley). It'll be like college all over again — except with drinks! 6:30-8:30 p.m., free. SpecimenMagazine.org — *S.C.*

510-472-3170. BerkeleyArtHouse [illegible].com.

Adia Vinograd and Rolland Lorenger Reading from their respective works of poetry. Sun., July 8, 3 p.m. Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts, 1747 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-4191. MythosFineArt.com.

Luis J. Rodriguez Reading from his book, *It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing*. Sun., July 10, 6-8 p.m. Oakland Public Library, César Chávez Branch, 3301 E. 12th St., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Margaret Pedes Reading from her book, *A Dramatically Different Direction*. At the Center for Elder Independence (510 17th St., Oakland). Fri., July 7, 3-5 p.m., 510-593-6618.

Martinez Library Bookworms Every Tuesday of every month. 7 p.m. free. Martinez Library, 740 Court St., Martinez. 925-646-2898. CCCLib.org/Locations/Martinez.html.

The Neptune Garden Book Club Discussing Robin Pilcher's *Going to See the Elephant*. Wed., July 11, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Playreaders A weekly group for adults to read aloud from great plays, changing parts frequently. Meets in the fourth floor Story Room. Wednesdays, noon. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Pleasant Hill Library Book Club Meets the Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. free. Pleasant Hill Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. 925-646-6434.

Poetry Freewrite Use Stories poems as prompts for your own. Facilitated by Jannett Jarrett, Poet Laureate of Emeryville. Mon., July 9, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5023. OaklandLibrary.org.

The Berkeley Notes An exhibition dedicated to poetry and experimental fiction, with a reading room, recordings of poems, and a chance to take books, a book drawn from overstock of small East Bay presses. Through Dec. 9. BAM/PFA, 2016 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

The Remainders Book Group A monthly book discussion group. This month, any of the books from Janet Dawson's Jeri Howard Mystery books. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. free. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991. CCCLib.org/Locations/ElSobrante.html.

Stanley E. Lowe Reading from his new thriller *Project Mosaic*. book. July 13, 7 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Tim Tanner Reading from his book, *From Animal House to Our House: A Love Story*. Thu., July 6, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-1117. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

The [illegible] Reading from his book, *[illegible] Essays and Cartoons*. Mon., July 9, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-1117. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Urban Fiction Book Club Call Sharon Mitchell for monthly book titles. 510-615-0121. Second Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Elmhurst Branch, 1427 88th Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5727. OaklandLibrary.org.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Amnesty International Monthly Berkeley All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters Club of Berkeley Public speaking club with a metaphysical emphasis. First and third Thursdays, 6:45-8:45 p.m. free. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-895-6830.

Oakland Berkeley Tenants Convention Berkeley residents are invited to select the progressive Rent Board slate for the November 2012 election. Sun., July 8, 1-4:30 p.m. 510-444-2538. BerkeleyTenantsConvention.org. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Foster Care and Adoption Open Workshop All families are welcome to the free adoption workshop, where prospective foster parents can learn about adopting a child in need of a home. Second Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Inc. AASK. Adopt a Special Kid, 8201 Edgewater Dr., Ste. 103, Oakland. 510-553-1748 x12. AASK.org.

Going Zero in Recycling Workshop: Going Zero The Northern California Recycling Association hosts a discussion with Sheila Davis, executive director of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition; Monica Wilson, US and Canada program director for GAIA; and Martin Bourque, executive director of the Ecology Center. Wed., July 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

Legal Assistance for Hayward Residents: Citizenship for Hayward With information on US naturalization, availability of the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), and more. Tue., July 10, 1-3 p.m. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.Hayward-CA.gov.

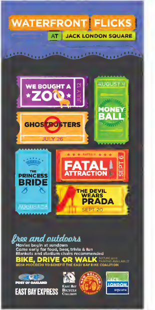
Oakland City Council Candidates Public Forum Candidates for Routes 1 and 3 discuss pressing issues facing Oakland and their proposed solutions in the Council Chambers. Mon., July 9, 5-9 p.m. Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.

Political Affairs Readers Group Discussing the "new normal" of social crisis and what's new about it. 1st Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-595-7417. MarxistLibrary.org.

World Premiere Documentary Screening: 9/11: Explosive Evidence: Experts Speak Out New 9/11 documentary featuring experts in professional engineering and other fields. Introduction by director/producer Richard Gage. Mon., July 9, 7 p.m. $10. ExplosiveEvidenceDVD. EventBrite.com. Rheem/[illegible] Theater, 2700 Saratoga St., Alameda.

SPOKEN WORD

The Moth Life's True Stories Well, real ten-minute stories by people from all walks of life. Audience members can put their names in a hat for a chance to tell six-minute stories. Mon., July 9, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $5-$20. 510-285-4928. TrueStoryTelling.com. Grand Lake Coffee House, 440 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-832-1587. GrandLakeCafe.com. ●



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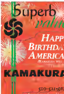
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Sunhui Chang's Korean fried chicken wings were deeply savory

Lucas Deli

FOOD FOR THE PEOPLE

In an unlikely corner of West Oakland, FuseBOX serves inventive Korean and Japanese bar bites — at working-class prices.

By Luke Tsai

The starkly industrial West Oakland neighborhood where chef Sunhui Chang has opened his first restaurant, FuseBOX, may or may not qualify as a "food desert," according to the various bodies that determine such things, but it most certainly is something of a restaurant desert. Heck, drive this far up West Grand and you won't see too many commercial businesses of any sort — the stretch of Magnolia Street where FuseBOX sits is taken up mostly by boxy anonymous warehouses.

No wonder Chang's colleagues in the food industry thought he was crazy when he told them he wanted to transform a tiny, seven-hundred-square-foot space on that block — a former furniture showroom — into a Korean restaurant. Who would eat there?

But Chang, a West Oakland resident, fell in love with the area, which reminded him of his childhood in Incheon, South Korea. He remembered how his father — a "foodie" before anyone coined the term — would talk about finding wonderful, lively restaurants hidden away in rough-and-tumble industrial areas.

Unlike other ambitious restaurateurs who come into a seemingly undesirable area with plans to remake it in their own image, Chang likes West Oakland the way it is. He just wants to give the working-class folks who live and work there a place where they can get a tasty, inexpensive meal.

And so FuseBOX was born — the name chosen not because of Chang's fondness for fusion cuisine (though there is a little of that), but because he hopes the restaurant will provide a spark of energy to a heretofore sleepy part of town.

For now, FuseBOX is only open for lunch from Wednesday to Friday, and only cash or checks are accepted. The exterior of the place is fairly bare-bones: The only indication that there's a restaurant is a little signboard on the sidewalk ("I Need Kimchi," the tagline reads).

But inside, the dining room — with its tasteful wood-accented simplicity — is bustling, even at two o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon. Most of the diners seem to be people from the neighborhood: burly laborers of various stripes, tattooed artist types with studios in converted warehouses nearby, and so forth.

As for the food, the menu at FuseBOX consists mainly of riffs on Korean and Japanese bar fare — things you'd eat while enjoying a cold beverage at an izakaya or soju bang. What's impressive is how affordable the food is, in spite of the fact that Chang sources high-quality ingredients and makes just about everything from scratch. During both my visits, everything on the menu was less than ten dollars, tax included.

Most of the dishes are small plates, and the best approach is to order a bunch of things to share. Start with some grilled meat or vegetable skewers — there's a small selection on the regular menu and, usually, several more options on the daily specials board. I especially liked a seasonal special of sugar snap peas, which had been coated in an umami-rich miso-butter glaze, and a yakitori skewer that featured pork belly, oyster mushroom, and scallion. Be forewarned: The portion size for each skewer is quite small (reasonable, given that many are just a dollar). Double or triple up on each item if you're sharing, or else just plan to order a second round of your favorites.

There are a number of other noteworthy appetizer-ish items on the menu. I wasn't a huge fan of the bland bacon-wrapped mochi (Japanese glutinous rice cake), though the dipping sauce that came with it — a mix of spicy Korean mustard and pickled mustard grains — was tasty enough to eat on its own. Much better was Chang's take on Korean fried chicken, which was neither as sweet nor as spicy as the garlic-soy versions I've had at more traditional soju bangs. Instead, these wings were deeply savory — reminiscent of good buffalo wings, except crispier and without the goopy sauce.

Chang also makes a mean sandwich, as illustrated by his Busan torta: cubes of not-too-fatty pork belly, cabbage slaw, pickled zucchini slices, and a heavy dose of house-made mayo. It was as decadent as any of the porchetta sandwiches that were all the rage last summer.

Finally, there is a selection of "Bap Sets," which are worth ordering so that you can sample the restaurant's creative banchans (little side dishes). Each set comes with a choice of meat — karaage (Japanese popcorn chicken, basically), kalbi (beef short ribs), or pork belly — though vegetarians can opt for just the side dishes and rice.

But the banchans are the star. Chang makes about ten different kinds of kimchi, and of these his very traditional — and quite pungent — napa cabbage kimchi was my favorite. There was also a kimchi made from kkaennip leaves and one made from the crowns of baby bok choy. Aside from the kimchis, there was a panoply of tiny pickled things, most of them wonderful — shiitake mushrooms and green mango slices and carrot tops. And cutest of all: five individual miso- and sesame-dressed edamame served on a long rectangular plate.

FuseBOX
2311A Magnolia St., Oakland
510-444-3100
Hours: Wed.-Fri., 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
Cash or checks only

Sample Menu

Chicken Thigh Oyster Skewer	$1
In-House Tofu	$4
FuseBOX KFC (Korean Fried Chicken)	$5
Busan Torta	$8
Karaage Bap Set	$10

The service at FuseBOX was friendly but scattershot at times — some of the staff weren't entirely familiar with the menu, and they were slow on the uptake when it came to knowing which items were sold out. And one time I showed up at the restaurant at noon on a Friday, only to find the place closed. The chef was sick that day, so they shut the entire operation down.

But assuming these kinks are ironed out, it's exciting to look ahead toward the future. In addition to expanding his hours to offer dinner service — just on Saturdays to start — Chang also hopes to make better use of the outdoor patio in front. His dream is to set up tables with built-in grills, like they have at Korean barbecue joints — maybe a jury-rigged sweet potato roaster too.

Imagine that: Grill-your-own Korean barbecue and piping hot roasted yams out under the stars. Not too shabby, West Oakland. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

THE BAGEL REVOLUTION CONTINUES

Schmendricks brings "New York Bagel Education" to the East Bay

By Luke Tsai

Schmendricks' bagels stand up to the hype Luke Tsai

On a recent Thursday evening, the proprietors of Schmendricks, the latest contender in the Bay Area's ongoing search for a Brooklyn-worthy bagel, made a rare appearance in the East Bay. In the back section of Saul's Restaurant & Delicatessen, about fifty bagel enthusiasts and East Coast fetishizers gathered, packed six to a booth, for an event titled "New York Bagel Education."

On hand to make a presentation on the cultural significance of bagels as an ethnic food and other assorted bagel trivia were three of the San Francisco-based pop-up's founding partners: David Kover (pizza writer for Serious Eats), his wife Peggy Dingman, and their friend (and lead baker) Deepa Subramanian. A fourth partner, Subramanian's husband, Dan Scholnick, wasn't present.

The trio took the audience through a quick history of the bagel, which most scholars seem to agree originated in Poland in the early 17th century — a response to anti-Semitic legislation stipulating that Jews couldn't bake bread (hence the crazy idea of *boiling* the bread first, before baking it), according to one version of the story.

The presentation also offered useful tidbits for food nerds and aspiring bagelmakers: the key to developing a good bagel's malty depth of flavor (a long cold fermentation); the number of bagels old-time artisans were able to roll out by hand in an hour (between 600 and 800); and the name of the exterior blistering that's prized by bagel connoisseurs ("fish eyes").

One of the more interesting points raised was something Kover called "Bagel Cognition Theory," a riff on former *New York Times* food critic Sam Sifton's "*Pizza Cognition Theory*," which states that whatever pizza you ate as a child becomes, by default, your definition of "authentic" pizza. Kover argued that the opposite is actually true of bagels — that no matter what kind of lousy bagels you grew up eating, once you encounter the real deal, you'll say, "Oh, *this* is a bagel."

And so, aside from Kover — who, as a Brooklyn native, can claim authentic bagels as his birthright — each of the panelists talked shamefacedly about the now-shunned bagels of their youth: for Dingman, it was cinnamon-sugar bagels slathered with cream cheese and grape jelly; for Subramanian, whole wheat bagels with a smear of jalapeño cream cheese.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that part of the point of the event was for the Schmendricks folks to promote their own product, which has been available on a limited basis, pretty much exclusively in San Francisco, for a couple of months now. In spite of the small scale of their business, many pundits have already declared Schmendricks bagels the best in the Bay Area — maybe even the best outside of a small number of old-school places in Brooklyn, Montreal, and New Jersey.

And so the evening's main event was a bagel taste-off, followed by a full-on bagel dinner, with Saul's providing an impressive spread of fixins and sides. Would the bagels stand up to the hype?

Without going into too much detail: Yes.

The Schmendricks bagels had a great malty flavor and gave my jaw a bit of a workout without being *too* hard (not to speak ill of the deceased, but I'm looking at you, SPOT Bagel). I especially liked how you could really distinguish between the crisp, finely blistered crust of the bagel and the dense, chewy interior.

Not discussed much in the presentation — but absolutely key — was the freshness of the bagels. I overheard Subramanian saying she had just baked the batch we were eating three hours earlier. She explained that when they sell out at their primary pop-up site at Faves Video and Espresso Bar in San Francisco, she replenishes the supply with freshly baked batches several times during the course of the day.

In my experience, no matter how good a shop's recipe is, an eight-hour-old bagel is going to be a pale (and stale) shadow of itself.

Interestingly enough, no one brought up the 3,000-pound elephant in the room: how the Schmendricks founders can justify selling their bagels for $3 each — more than three times what The Bagel Hole, the Brooklyn shop they cite as their inspiration, charges. All I'll say about that is, in the absence of a viable competitor, I'm more than willing to shell out three bucks for one of these bagels. But $36 for a dozen is pretty excessive.

For those of us who live in the East Bay, it's largely a moot point, as Schmendricks has no immediate plans to sell its bagels on this side of the bridge on a regular basis. Nevertheless, we may very well be in the midst of a bagel renaissance, what with Beauty's Bagel Shop, Authentic Bagel Company, and newcomer Baron Baking all setting up shop in the East Bay.

Baron Baking, in particular, is still a little-known quantity, but Dan Graf's one-man operation is already supplying bagels for Saul's, Chop Bar, and the soon-to-open Stag's Lunchette. I tasted a couple of his bagels, and my initial impressions are unequivocally positive: Graf might even be primed to give Schmendricks a run for their money. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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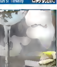

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Restaurants in and Near West Oakland

B-Side BBQ
3303 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-595-0227. B-Side is the newest venture from Brown Sugar Kitchen's perennially popular Tanya Holland, in the old Yardie Jerk space on San Pablo Avenue in West Oakland. Holland has no barbecue-specific experience, but her broad resume serves her well in carving out some new culinary territory. B-Side's brisket is exemplary, as are the salmon and barbecue chicken, but the ribs never quite match up to expectations. Nothing is groundbreaking, but it's still a very tasty addition to the area's slim offerings of quality barbecue. Meats come from Niman Ranch and other quality purveyors. $$

Brown Sugar Kitchen
2534 Mandela Pkwy., Oakland, 510-839-7685. Tanya Holland's light and bold, Southern-soul cuisine has found a home in this retro-chic diner set among the lofts and warehouses of West Oakland. Breakfasts include house-made muffins and sticky buns, a delectable, custard-like egg and vegetable tart, and light-as-air buttermilk waffles with crunchy juicy fried chicken. Lunchtime offers luscious, pineapple-glazed barbecued ribs, a below-par gumbo, the po' boy sandwich of the day and a marvelous array of side dishes (try the sweet potato-Gruyère gratin). Friendly knowledgeable service. $$

Everett & Jones Barbeque
126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350. This chain of family-owned barbeque establishments serves up traditionally smoked and grilled ribs, chicken, brisket, and beef links for both takeout and onsite dining. Although the ribs aren't up to the high standards of Memphis, Chicago, and Kansas City, they're luscious, spicy, and satisfying, and the chicken and the brisket are marvelously tender and smoky. (The tough, oddly textured beef links are safely avoidable, however.) Sides include rich, earthy pinto beans; silky, pungent greens; unexciting candied yams; and a crisp, spiky coleslaw. Get the sweet potato pie for dessert. $$

Hibiscus
1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-444-2626. Long known for its signature nouveau-Caribbean fare, Hibiscus recently reopened with an updated design, a different chef, a sleek, adjacent late-night lounge, and a newfound focus on the classic flavors of the American South. The menu changes often and can occasionally feel unnecessarily heavy, but standouts include the sweet-potato soup, the cornbread, and the silky-smooth, gravy-soaked mashed potatoes (even if the buttermilk-fried chicken under which they sit is a bit greasy). Service is prompt and friendly, and the food's sure to only get better as Hibiscus finds its footing in its new incarnation. $$$

Home of Chicken and Waffles
444 Embarcadero W., Oakland, 510-836-4446. After a three-year hiatus, fried chicken and waffles have returned to Oakland. The owners shook out a Crayola box to spruce up an old coffee shop, tricking it out with sparkly blue upholstery and shiny starburst lights. The menu lists every possible combination of chicken (fried or fried and smothered), waffles, greens, yams, cornbread, and black-eyed peas you can think of, each named after a family member (highlights: all the sides and the mile-high coconut cake). And yes, you're supposed to eat the chicken and waffles with syrup. $

La Borinqueña Mex-icatessen
582 7th St., Oakland, 510-444-9954. Family-owned and operated since 1944, La Borinqueña is one of the East Bay's oldest restaurants, and it has that settled-in, been-here-forever feel. Several generations have grown up craving its famous tamales, which many patrons buy by the dozen. An on-site grocery store stocks a full line of Mexican items ranging from pickled cactus to cakes of brown sugar, while the restaurant serves house-style meals and snacks. $-$$

La Furia Chalaca
310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206. Homey dishes from Peru's mountains and coastline are authentically prepared and artistically presented at this Jack London Square destination. Causa (puréed potatoes filled with spicy chicken) makes an excellent starter; the house *ceviche* is bright, lush, and impeccably fresh; *cabrito* (braised goat) is a rich, hearty, satisfying meal. Sipping options include a potent Pisco Sour, the refreshing *chicha morada* (purple-corn punch), and an impressive Peru-centric wine list. Lovely array of pre-Columbian pottery. $$$

Lois the Pie Queen
851 60th St., Oakland, 510-658-5616. Lois the Pie Queen passed away almost fifteen years ago, but her legendary Oakland restaurant continues to thrive under the stewardship of her son. The food is only half the charm — the homey, funky feel draws a crowd of longtime regulars. Breakfast and lunch are superb, with fluffy flapjacks, creamy grits, and biscuits worth an intercity drive. Even if it's before noon, no one would chide you for following up your steak and eggs with a slice of Lois's regal lemon [illegible] pie. $-$$

Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge
One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510.444.2626. The fabled Afro-Caribbean San Francisco hangout has relocated to Jack London Square with a re-conceived menu and much of its funky ambience intact. Best bets include a yucca-cinnamon turnover stuffed with pork, raisins, peppers, and olives; smoky sugarcane-skewered prawns draped with corn-tomato salsa, shrimp-shiitake spring rolls with chili-mint dipping sauce; and lime-ginger salmon on a bed of almond-cauliflower couscous. Get the dense, creamy *tres leches* cake with passion fruit puree for dessert. Impressive cocktail menu features 27 varieties of rum. $$$

Nellie's
1155 3rd St., Oakland, 510-625-1950. Nellie Ortiz — Miss Nellie to you — and her daughter Quinette have followed out to the warehouse district of West Oakland with the promise of fried chicken and a gospel-filled jukebox, both of which make their guests break out in song. Skip the pork chops, steak, and sandwiches and stick with lovingly rendered Southern classics. If you get there early enough, order one of the daily specials, like stewed oxtail, short ribs, or smothered chicken, because they sell out by the middle of the evening. All the entrées earn you the right to three sides, and three is never enough. $$

Red Buffalo
2433 Market St., Oakland, 510-832-8328. Deep in West Oakland's Ghost Town neighborhood sits this mysteriously excellent takeout spot, a mix of bulletproof glass and old-timey kitsch decor. The wings are moist, tender, and full of meaty flavor, not to mention large for a standard broiler hen. The sizzling hot wing, made with a combo of old-school Trappey's fire sauce and fresh jalapeños, bowls you over with its intensity. The deeply smoky chipotle wing is also a scorcher, with just a bit less vinegar in the sauce. Both hot wings have little pepper pieces embedded in the skin, a nod to thoughtful, handmade preparation. The low-cost menu also includes a range of Philly cheesesteaks and a deep-fried Twinkie with chocolate and strawberry dipping sauce. $

Scend's
3627 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-9638. Newly remodeled and expanded, down-home Scend's serves up the food we Americans turn to for solace, all of it deep-fried. You can order an infinite combination of breaded oysters, moist snapper and catfish dusted with cornmeal, and crispy chicken wings and shrimp. Pass

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Comal

2020 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-926-6300. At this upscale downtown Berkeley spot, Chef Matt Gandin showcases Mexican flavors using local ingredients in a menu that changes from season to season. While large *platos fuertes* — wood-grilled meat dishes that serve as an entire meal for two or three — are available, most of the menu consists of shareable small plates. The masa-based items (enchiladas, quesadillas, and such) can be very good, especially if a mole sauce is involved. But the real stars are the simplest things: grilled corn slathered in *queso fresco* and chipotle aioli, for example, or Gandin's minimalist (but to-die-for) guacamole. Meanwhile the setting can't be topped: a beautifully remodeled industrial space and a gorgeous covered back patio that makes for one of the best al fresco dining experiences in Berkeley. $$$

Kamdesh Afghan Kabob House

34[illegible] St., Oakland, 510-286-1900. Even if you've never tried Afghan cuisine, you'll find the food at Kamdesh Afghan Kabob House instantly approachable. It's the essence of down-home comfort fare: tender braised meats, soft, garlicky vegetables; warm bread. The *bolani* — a traditional stuffed flatbread — arrives at the table piping hot with a potato-and-onion filling that recalls good homemade pierogi. Kamdesh's chargrilled kebab options are intensely flavorful but prone to being overcooked. Best is any dish served with braised lamb shank, especially the *qaabili palaw*, a biryani-like rice casserole with raisins, pistachios, and rice cooked in the juices of the lamb. $$

Café Julie

1500 Webster St., Alameda, 510-523-4500. Chef-owner Joann Gustario calls Café Julie a "French-American bistro," meaning the menu is a mixed bag: chicken strips and Cobb salad and a run-of-the-mill selection of egg dishes alongside pastries imported straight from France. Lunch offerings tend to be stronger than most breakfast options, including a solid *croque monsieur* (with béchamel served on the side) and a tasty all-breast-meat chicken burger on a toasted brioche bun. The space is bright and pleasant, and there's a nice patio area for those who enjoy dining al fresco. $-$$

Café Clem

2006 Kittredge St., Berkeley 510-526-4373. Café Clem brings a bit of Parisian charm to downtown Berkeley with its antiquey (and cozy) red-tiled interior and pleasant outdoor terrace. The order-at-the-counter cafe is popular with the Berkeley High lunch crowd, but because it lacks a full kitchen — unlike its sister restaurant, La Note — you're better off sticking to salads and sandwiches. The *croque monsieur*, while not traditional, is a good riff on a grilled ham and cheese, and the delicious *saucisson beurre* features high-quality imported French salami on a well-toasted and buttered baguette. Avoid items that would normally be cooked on a stovetop, like scrambled eggs. Meanwhile, an extensive pastry display case features products from a host of local bakeries. $

Ajanta

1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-4373. With its fancy light fixtures, white tablecloths, and abundant silverware (a big fork and a little fork), Ajanta is one of the East Bay's more elegant Indian restaurants. More importantly, the food is as varied as it is refined, with a focus on creative preparations of harder-to-find regional specialties. Chef-owner Lachu Moorjani eschews typical curry-house standards such as *chana masala* and *aloo gobi*. Instead, the rotating menu of regional dishes might include things like *sayal machi* — perfectly cooked fish fillet served over a lush caramelized onion sauce — or *dakshini gosht*, a South Indian braised lamb dish with all the richness and depth of a good beef bourguignon. Even humble offerings like the mango *lassi* and the assortment of naan breads are better than average. $$-$$$

American Oak

2354 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda 510-[illegible]. At American Oak, an unabashed whiskey bar on one of the Park Street corridor's quieter blocks, Chef Gabe Cortes serves up cassoulets and wagyu burgers and wood-fired pizzas — fun, approachable gastropub fare that matches, and often outshines, its acclaimed counterparts in Oakland and across the bay. The menu, which changes each month, is a mix of updated American comfort food and French bistro fare. Stick to the items cooked in the 900-degree wood-burning oven and you can't go wrong: beautifully blistered pizzas and roasted chicken with super-crisp skin and uniformly juicy meat. $$-$$$

by the side of red beans and rice in favor of the Bay seasoning-dusted fries and creamy potato salad. This neighborhood spot draws a lively crowd, especially during football season. $$

Souley Vegan

301 Broadway, Oakland, 510-922-1615. At this oasis in the gritty heart of Downtown Oakland, Tamearra Dyson's barbecued tofu, garlic-and-pickle-spiked potato salad, chicken-less cheesecake, cheeseless macaroni and cheese, tender corn on the cob, and fresh fruit blends create a sophisticated richness that flesh-eaters and even old-school vegetarians would say have no business being this far from bacon and Crisco. A lifelong vegetarian and a vegan since age sixteen, Oakland native Dyson started with a catering company and a booth in local farmers' markets before opening this small storefront restaurant in June 2008. Inside a wrinkly peppery cornmeal-batter blanket half an inch thick and fried in olive oil — the only type Dyson uses — the crispy tofu served here as a safe dish or in a burger brings back fond memories of fried fish. Without the fish. Remember those funky oh-so-local holes-in-the-wall where, when you were a carnivore, you walked right in (no scouring the menu for the single dish your diet might allow) and just chowed down? Well, this is one of those. $$

Wally's Cafe

3900 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-597-4103. Wally's Cafe is perfectly aligned to attract 90 percent of the East Bay's iPhone picture-snapping food blogosphere, with its obscure location tucked behind an Emeryville roadhouse-style dive bar, its free baklava and lentil soup with every order, and its sometimes-available secret menu prepared by Wally's Moroccan wife. But the best reason to visit Wally's is simple: solidly prepared, reasonably priced Lebanese and Greek cuisine, with a little American stuff thrown in for the [illegible]. $$

Yoshi's Oakland

510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200. Sho Kamio (call him Sho) has a dual identity. The chef champions both Japanese traditions and a style of nouvelle cuisine he calls *sosaku*, adding sizzle to a place that has served as snack bar for the adjacent jazz club. The sushi is just okay but Sho's nouveau dishes excel. Broiled on sake-soaked cedar (to approximate Japanese charcoal), the Kurobuta pork chop is fierce. And barely seared scallops splattered with truffle oil have the cool fire of vintage Miles. $$$

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50

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CommonWealth is a pretty civilized place most of the time Ellen Cushing

LAST CALL

EUROZONE VICES

British beer and American spirit at CommonWealth Cafe and Public House

By Ellen Cushing

"It's not usually this crazy," said a bartender apologetically, and no shit: It was before noon on a quiet stretch of Telegraph in the gray half mile or so between Koreatown and Temescal, and CommonWealth was already warm and window-fogged, clotted with jerseyed bodies ready to watch Italy take on Spain in the EuroCup finals. The particulars of this match's timeslot — 11:45 a.m. on a Sunday — and of the fact that apparently it is a capital sin to watch soccer sober made for some wonderfully cognitively dissonant tableaux. A young woman with red-and-yellow hearts painted on her cheeks balanced a bowl of wholesome-looking granola and yogurt ($6) in one hand and a decidedly un-wholesome-looking stout ($5) in the other; groups greeted each other with a bleary-eyed "good morning" before almost immediately cheering with overflowing beers. The pub's "beermosa" ($5), a so-crazy-it-just-might-work combination of Ale Industries Orange Kush and Odwalla orange juice, was in expectably high demand. Animated strangers piped into each others' conversations — it was almost impossible not to, given proximity — and every so often a robust "Eeee-tal-ya" or "Es-pan-a" would ripple through the crowd. A quiet brunching couple — she with her crossword, he with his book, both with lattes and frittatas and sitting surrounded at exactly crotch height by hollering foreigners — looked piqued.

CommonWealth Cafe and Public House
2882 Telegraph Ave
Oakland
510-663-3001
CmnWOakland.com
Hours: Mon-Sat, 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m.; Sun 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Which was understandable, if not entirely in the spirit of the day. CommonWealth is, after all, a pretty civilized place most of the time, proper in black and white and lime green with art on the walls, ornate wallpaper, dark-wood accents, and a polite little bookshelf sitting next to the bar cluttered with well-loved paperbacks (notable title: *The Ultimate Guide to Being Scottish*) and various vintagey tchotchkes. On the menu, tea is referred to as "cuppa" — one of the owners, Ross Adair, is an honest-to-god Scotsman, which lends the place a welcome dose of verisimilitude — and the beer menu contains an entirely respectable list of British beers, delineated by nation, alcohol content, and size of pour (plus a very respectable list of hyperlocal draughts, from the likes of Oakland Brewing Company, Dying Vines, and so on). When the bar runs out of a certain beer — which it did on Sunday many times, twice before noon — a bearded barback will hop on top of the bar and tape up a little handwritten sign saying "Out!" It's all very charming.

In an interview with an *Express* food writer a few months after it opened in 2010, co-owner Pete Jeffryes explained that as a pub, CommonWealth "is a place to enjoy life — and beer — rather than a place to get drunk," which is exactly right. There's no hard liquor, for one, and on a Friday or Saturday night, it's low-lit and quiet, full of neighborhood types and homesick expats, small groups and laptop-tappers, not a rowdy bunch in sight. Even the foosball table — a magnet for rambunctiousness at any bar — is respectful and tidy, with soon-to-be-players signing up on a neat list tacked to the wall. Suffice it to say that on most other Sundays of the year but this one, brunch is a decidedly more sedate affair.

By 11 a.m., it was unusually crowded; by noon, uncomfortably so, though everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves very much. By 12:30, there was a small contingent of people standing outside, craning their necks to watch through the window. (The following day, a bartender told me it had been one of the bar's biggest ever, and frankly, it's hard to imagine how it wasn't the biggest, as any more people shoehorned into that space might have actually caused the whole place to explode out onto Telegraph.) The game was a good one, according to the man standing next to me, a Spanish expatriate who seemed very knowledgeable about such things. When Mata booted that final shot and it was clear the whole thing was over, the entire room exploded into sloppy hugs and impassioned chants and multilingual shouts of celebration and/or dismay. Cash and trash-talk were exchanged and beers downed happily. Even the brunching couple looked up from their crossword. ●

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FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

12th Street Food Pod With varied Bites from vendors on 12th Street, between Franklin Street and Broadway. Stand: tyt, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Berry Fields' Pick blackberries to take home for pies, breakfast and other treats. Bring your own basket. Sat., July 7, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

Bites Off Broadway With eating from Tina Tamale, Doc's of the Bay, Mo's Breakfast Truck, Cookin's Coming, Go Banzai, Marketed India, Pot of Flour, and more. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 12. 510-... BitesOffBroadway.com. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland. 510-597-5077. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Guerilla Cafe: Latin Freestyle Pop-Up Starting Jul. 6, Fridays, 7 p.m. Continues through July 27. 510-597-5027. Guerilla Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2233. GuerillaCafe.com.

Clay Street Food Pod With Mobile/Bites food vendors on Clay Street, between 14th and 15th streets. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mastering Knife Skills Workshop A hands-on slicing and dicing workshop. Sat., July 7, 12-3 p.m. $... Kitchen on Fire West, 2945 Seventh St., Berkeley, 510-548-2665. KitchenOnFire.com.

Bourbon A la Bourbon With tastings of microbrews from 21st Amendment, Coppertail Company, Linden Brewing Company, Ol' Plank Brewing Company, and more, plus barbecue for sale and live music by Flip Bomb, in the Coliseum's Eastside Club. Sat., July 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. $... for two tastings and a commemorative glass; $5 for additional tastings. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Rick's Supper Club With a seasonal menu prepared by Bocanova chef/owner Rick Hackett and Bravo Stand of Bellwether Stand and Bees Pasta. Paired with wines from Charlie Oakland of Cooke Vineyards. Thu., July 5, 7 p.m. $80. Bocanova, 55 Webster St., Oakland. 510-444-1233. Bocanova.com.

Snow Park Food Pod With various Bites from vendors. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Snow Park, 1920 Oakland St., Oakland.

Splash Pad Food Pod With various Bites from vendors. Thursdays, 5-9 p.m. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Street Food Tuesdays With food truck-inspired small plates served in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, $3-$8. 400-551-7758. Paragon restaurant at Claremont Hotel, Berkeley. 510-549-8510. ParagonRestaurant.com.

Studio One Food Pod With Mobile/Bites food vendors. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland, 510-597-5077. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Sushi and Nigiri Workshop Chef Chat Mingkwan shares recommendations for buying and preparing fresh ingredients for Nigiri, Maki Rolls, and more. Fri., July 6, 6:30-9:30 p.m. $75. Kitchen on Fire North, 1509 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2665. KitchenOnFire.com.

"Tagine" Moroccan Pop-Up Night With Moroccan food prepared by chef Zoubair Karaik. Every other Thursday, 6-10 p.m. Guerilla Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2233. GuerillaCafe.com.

Tapas of Southern Spain Workshop Learn how to make Flamenquin, Patatas Bravas, Spanish-style omelets, and more. Sun., July 8, 6:30 p.m. $75. Kitchen on Fire North, 1509 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2665. KitchenOnFire.com.

Tacos, Tinkers, Top Hats, and Tails With wine, beer and cocktail products by participating downtown Livermore businesses. Wed., July 11, $25, plus $10 for required glass. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/253849.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

Albany Farmers' Market With local, breakfast produce and prepared foods. On Solano Avenue (between San Pablo Avenue and Adams Street). Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 31. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Bayfair Marketplace Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

BYA Farm Stand (Market Community Oakland Stand) Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. free. 510-848-3794. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1256 Allston Wy., Berkeley. 510-845-9010. BYAonline.org.

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and prepared food, vegetables, herbs, snacks, and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-535-6920. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market The weekly market hosts more than 70 producers, prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 800-897-3276. SplashPad.org/farmersmkt.html. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally grown and prepared foods from more than 35 farmers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 800-897-3276. AgriculturalInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4300. Ci.Hayward.Ca.Us.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a variety of fresh fruits, an organic macrobiotic rice products, both wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, buttons, bread, cheese, fresh pasta and Oakland purveyors. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-847-6803. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Oakview Lands, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market With pesticide-free organic produce from ... Organic Farm and a youth-led program from ... farms like Purple Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-482-1500. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel Farmers Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With breads, Oakland stand, all-organic produce and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Children's Hospital Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-254-7417. FreshFarmersFarmers.org. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

North Oakland Plaza N' Farmers' Market With a healthy, safe and ... Mexican space, seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms, and flea market goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. 942 Stanford Ave., 942 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Oakland seasonal produce, breads, oils and other organic foods, along with library of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal Oakland greens, nuts, fresh baked bread, produce, cut flowers, Oakland foods, yoga. Market live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 99 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh, locally grown fruit, live ... flowers, eggs, and other Oakland. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond farmers, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5150. Ci.Berkeley.Ca.Us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12790.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal Oakland dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, Oakland flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby and Adeline streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Youth-Led Farm Stand The fresh farm stand features seasonal produce from producer farmers and sells urban produce, along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-related ... accepted. At 10700 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.com.

PICK

Barbecue Championship

The second all-day Bay Area BBQ Championship at the O.co Coliseum (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland) on Saturday, July 7 brings together professional and amateur teams for a series of chicken, pork, and beef cook-offs as guests sample the results and cast their votes. Other activities include beer-and-barbecue pairing, a dance competition, awards ceremonies, a meet-and-greet with beer chef Bruce Paton, and a Persian grilling demonstration featuring San Francisco chef Hoss Zaré. Proceeds benefit local foster children, and tickets include admission to the A's vs. Mariners game at 7:10 p.m. 9 a.m., $35-$78. BayAreaBBQ.org. — *Anneli Rufus*

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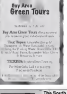

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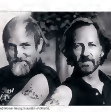
MOVIES

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Norteña, polka, R&B, Afro-Cuban, and blues (the films of Les Blank) — and arachnids (*The Amazing Spider-Man*)

By Kelly Vance



Les Blank and Werner Herzog in *Burden of Dreams*.

It's impossible to overstate the feeling of joy that the films of Les Blank can produce in those who love American "roots" culture. For almost fifty years, filmmaker-musicologist-bon vivant Blank and his El Cerrito-based Flower Films have been responsible for some of the most exciting musical documentaries in the world. In most cases, the subject is roots — blues, zydeco, Cajun, bluegrass, Afro-Cuban, Tex-Mex, folk, polka — the tuneful homegrown expressions of ordinary working people, captured with utmost empathy and a huge helping of fun by Blank and his camera. Even when they take a detour into the folk wisdom of gap-toothed women or garlic, Blank's wide-eyed wanderings reflect the essential inclusiveness of the American spirit.

If there's a problem with all this, it's that Blank is not well enough known, even in his own backyard. In glorifying a side of life rarely shown in Hollywood movies, his oeuvre is non-commercial by default. There are no multimillion-dollar ad campaigns behind films like *Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe*, so potentially receptive audiences may be wholly unfamiliar with Blank. The Pacific Film Archive has a remedy for that. Starting on Sunday, July 8, with a showing of his raucous 1978 celebration of New Orleans, *Always for Pleasure*, the PFA presents a 7-week, 23-film retrospective of Blank's work, curated by interns Hila Abraham and Madeline Horn with Kathy Geritz, and filled out with surprise programs and Blank's patented foodie sideshows. Let the good times roll.

Chulas Fronteras (1976) tells us more about the hard work and homemade joys of immigrant farmworkers in the Texas-Mexico borderlands than a dozen CNN specials. The tour — with major input from frequent collaborator Chris Strachwitz of Down Home Music — is propelled by the high-energy music of Flaco Jiménez, Lydia Mendoza, and Narciso Martinez, banging away with accordions and guitars in corridos about melon strikes as well as romantic ballads and dance tunes (Sunday, July 15). The same sort of musical and social exploration takes place in *Sworn to the Drum: A Tribute to Francisco Aguabella* (1995), a profile of the Cuban-born percussionist, with guest artists Carlos Santana and Armando Peraza and a visit to a santería ceremony. It plays on Sunday, July 29, right before a very rare screening of Blank's 1988 concert footage of virtuoso guitarist Ry Cooder performing in Santa Cruz with Flaco Jiménez and Van Dyke Parks.

Food, drink, and music always go together in Blank's films. His 1984 ethnographic romp *In Heaven There Is No Beer* takes a polka-and-kielbasa-fueled trip through Polish-American (July 15), while *All in This Tea* (2007) investigates the sublime pleasures of fine tea, from China to Marin County, with importer David Lee Hoffman (Sunday, July 22). Hoffman and Blank host a tea tasting after the show. Similarly, a special dinner of red beans and rice is available before Sunday's screening of *Always for Pleasure*.

Always for Pleasure: The Films of Les Blank
July 8-August 30 at the Pacific Film Archive

The Amazing Spider-Man
Directed by Marc Webb. With Andrew Garfield and Rhys Ifans. Now playing.

Burden of Dreams (1982), arguably the finest "making of" doc ever produced, takes us behind the scenes of Werner Herzog's surreal costumed epic *Fitzcarraldo* for the ultimate rumble in the jungle, a contest of wills between Herzog and actor Klaus Kinski in the Amazon wilderness, with supporting parts by Mick Jagger and Jason Robards Jr. Blank co-directs with longtime collaborator Maureen Gosling. It closes the series on Thursday, August 30. Find out more about Les Blank and the "Always for Pleasure" series by visiting BAMPFA.berkeley.edu as well as LesBlank.com.

This summer's Blank-fest is not confined to the East Bay. On August 24, the San Francisco Film Society hosts the filmmaker for "Les Blank on Documentary Cinematography," the latest in the Society's Behind the Scenes Master Class series, at the organization's Film Centre in the Presidio. Visit SFFS.org for details.

We pick up the tale of *The Amazing Spider-Man* at the beginning. Or the beginning of the middle. Certainly not the beginning of the end, for the end of this particular thread of the Marvel Comics multi-franchise will never be reached. Call it the middle of the beginning.

Peter Parker, played by Andrew Garfield, is a picked-on teenage nerd in the midst of an identity crisis. It's odd to see British actor Garfield, from *The Social Network* and *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*, skulking around the halls of an American high school. When he's not getting pummeled by jocks or becoming infatuated with a blond classmate named Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone from *The Help*), science fan Peter burns to snoop around the headquarters of biotech firm Oscorp, where the seemingly amicable Dr. Curt Connors (Rhys Ifans) is conducting experiments in cross-species genetics. That's a subject dear to Peter because his researcher father was working in that field right before his puzzling disappearance years earlier.

Coincidences accumulate. Peter gets bitten by a mutant spider at the lab and starts his transformation into a crime-fighting superhero. Movie touchstones abound. At first, bewildered Peter behaves like the Jeff Goldblum character in *The Fly*, then he settles down into a kind of Anthony Perkins in tights, forever ducking his head in the presence of Gwen and her police-captain father (Denis Leary). Spidey's first forays have an ingratiating amateurish tinge, à la *Kick-Ass*. Meanwhile, as the lean doctor goes through his *Nutty Professor* paces, we're faced with a sober, restrained Ifans seemingly in rebellion against his company's predatory profit motive and Spider-Man's supremacy.

We begin to wish that *The Amazing Spider-Man* had the same joie de vivre as *The Avengers*. Aside from the thrilling fight scene in the sewer with Lizard Man, the movie maintains a somber tone that saps whatever energy director Marc Webb can inject into it. As usual with A-list special-effects productions that tend to run long, we take note of the two-hour, eighteen-minute running time and mentally look for ways to lose the extra eighteen minutes — despite the fact that things like people's salaries, product placements, etc. are built into them. America needs those eighteen minutes. Garfield and especially Ifans, clearly out of their comfort zones, seem baffled by the scenario, as if they're aware they're only placeholders in an endless succession of sequels. Spidey is truly God's Lonely Man. ■

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

The Amazing Spider-Man If only this prequel to Marvel's never-ending [illegible] had the same *joie de vivre* as *The Avengers*. But no. Young Peter Parker [illegible] British actor Andrew Garfield gets bit by a mutant spider and gradually turns into the Spidey we all know and somewhat love, while tangling with mad scientist Dr. Curt Connors (Rhys Ifans) [illegible] blond Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone). Apart from the thrilling fight scene in the sewer with Lizard Man, the movie maintains a somber tone that saps whatever energy director Marc Webb can inject into it. Screenplay by a raft of writers led by James Vanderbilt. Costarring Denis Leary, Martin Sheen, and Sally Field. (136 min.) (K.V.)

Katy Perry: Part of Me Documentary following the pop singer [illegible] on and off stage during her California Dreams tour. Directed by Dan Cutforth and Jane Lipsitz.

[illegible] [illegible]

(Sophie Quinton, in flashback) [illegible] of Jura. [illegible] (109 min.) (K.V.)

Savages Oliver Stone returns to his gory beginnings [illegible] (Aaron Johnson, Taylor Kitsch) [illegible] (Blake Lively) [illegible] (Salma Hayek) [illegible] DEA agent (John Travolta) [illegible]

[illegible] (Emile Hirsch). (127 min.)

Take This Waltz Romantic dramedy starring Michelle Williams [illegible] Written and directed by Sarah Polley; also starring Seth Rogen and Sarah Silverman. (116 min.)

[illegible] (105 min.)

ONGOING

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter [illegible]

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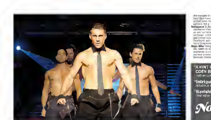

Magic Mike

Bernie Actor Jack Black [illegible] himself into the [illegible] Richard Linklater [illegible] with this [illegible] study, a [illegible] of East Texas flavor in a [illegible] wrapper. Everyone in the little town of Carthage [illegible] their [illegible] and [illegible] Bernie Tiede (Black), has [illegible] the best [illegible] of the [illegible] rich lady in town, Marjorie Nugent (Shirley MacLaine). And the [illegible] really start [illegible] when Marjorie mysteriously disappears. Black, MacLaine, and Matthew McConaughey (as the gung-ho local DA) all revel in their parts, and the [illegible] of Linklater's [illegible] (played by a mixture of actors and amateurs) play themselves as a Greek chorus of snoops. [illegible] (*The School of Rock*, *Before Sunrise*, *Me and Orson Welles*) and co-writer Skip Hollandsworth just [illegible] 'em up and let 'em go, and they're [illegible]. The comparison with *Fargo* is apt, [illegible] for the [illegible] to see [illegible] sing his song, "Bernie: What Have You Done?" A winner. (104 min.) (KV)

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel Ensemble comedy about a group of Britons who decide to spend their retirement in India. Directed by John Madden, adapted by Ol Parker from the novel *These Foolish Things* by Deborah Moggach, starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, Dev Patel, and Tom Wilkinson. (124 min.)

Brave Pixar's big summer tentpole [illegible] focusing on a [illegible] princess who is trying to [illegible] her kingdom. Directed by Mark Andrews, Brenda Chapman, and Steve Purcell; written by Andrews, Chapman, Purcell, and Irene Mecchi; with voices by Emma Thompson and Kelly Macdonald. (100 min.)

Dark Shadows [illegible] vampire Barnabas Collins (Johnny Depp at his hammiest) wakes up in 1972 and has to contend with something even stranger than the [illegible]. Before the [illegible] is [illegible] in the final reel, he and the cast have an ungodly mixture of fun playing old-fashioned [illegible] against an array of [illegible]. Chief among them is Eva Green as witch Angelique, vengeful victim of Barnabas' unrequited love — but there's also the family matriarch (Michelle Pfeiffer), a randy doctor (played by Helena Bonham Carter), the virginal nanny (Bella Heathcote), and Chloë Grace Moretz as the world's unimpressed teenage descendant. Director Burton and his usual crew [illegible], production designer Rick Heinrichs [illegible] themselves in the [illegible], and Seth Grahame-Smith's screenplay (from a story he wrote with John August, adapted from the TV series by Dan Curtis) [illegible] characters. Burton's best since *Ed Wood*, with [illegible] as [illegible] the character, and Christopher Lee, perfect as a grizzled old sea captain. (113 min.) (KV)

The Hunger Games Adapted from the popular young-adult novel, this sci-fi fantasy concerns two [illegible] teenage gladiators fighting each other to the death as part of a televised spectacle in the distant future. [illegible] Gary Ross (*Pleasantville*) generally avoids the elaborate [illegible] and special effects that characterize high-concept blockbusters, [illegible] cinematographer Tom Stern, recreating the [illegible] blue-gray tones of his many films with Clint Eastwood [illegible] the character drama and scenes of hand-to-hand combat mainly in [illegible] with a [illegible] camera. With [illegible] Lawrence, Woody Harrelson, and Wes Bentley. (142 min.) (R.S.)

Lola Versus Utterly predictable [illegible] a jilted young Manhattan woman with conventional TV sitcom rhythms [illegible] and yet we can't take our eyes off Lola, played with her usual self-deprecation by Greta Gerwig. Lola does what every wronged [illegible] is supposed to do — binge-eating, binge-drinking, sleeping around, following bad advice from her nerdy friends, etc. Gerwig, if [illegible] willing to do anything to remain in character. There has been no special [illegible] the [illegible] mumblecore queen's essential character, but she manages to situations. [illegible] by Daryl Wein from a screenplay he developed with actress-writer Zoe Lister-Jones, who plays Lola's pal Alice. (87 min.) (KV)

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted Third installment of the animated kids' series, catching up with our heroes as they join a traveling circus in Europe. Directed by Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath, and Conrad Vernon; written by Darnell and Noah Baumbach; with voices by Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, and Sacha Baron Cohen.

Magic Mike Chippendales-esque stripping dramedy, based on star Channing Tatum's real-life experience as a male exotic dancer. (That sound you hear is every straight woman and gay man frantically Fandango-ing.) Directed by Steven Soderbergh, written by Reid Carolin; also starring Alex Pettyfer and Olivia Munn. (110 min.)

Marvel's The Avengers Exactly the sum of its parts. Without Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man), Mark Ruffalo (The Incredible Hulk), and Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow), this installment of Stan Lee's Marvel Comics superhero adventures would be just another expensively produced demolition derby. But writer-director Joss Whedon's dialogue [illegible] (co-written with Zak Penn, adapted from Lee and Jack Kirby's comic book) come to life blissfully when Iron Man, the Hulk, and Black Widow do their thing, which involves saving Earth from disgruntled misfit Loki (Tom Hiddleston) and a bit of runaway technology called the Tesseract. Don't ask, just marvel. The two-and-a-half hour

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fly by with a thing. Also with Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye), Samuel L. Jackson (Nick Fury), Chris Evans (Captain America), Chris Hemsworth (Thor), and the [illegible] Gwyneth Paltrow as Tony "Iron Man" Stark's squeeze, Pepper Potts. Now if they [illegible] only figure out a way to get Spider-Man into the mix. (142 min.) (KV)

Men in Black 3 Same silly sci-fi premise as before, yet with better [illegible] special effects. Those alone might justify seeing this [illegible] previous [illegible] the pix. Agent J (Will Smith) time-travels back to 1969 to prevent evil alien Boris the Animal (Jemaine Clement) from destroying Earth and killing a younger version (Josh Brolin) of J's 2012 partner Agent K (Tommy Lee Jones). Jones's Tommy Lee [illegible] is very good, as is actor Michael Stuhlbarg's turn as Griffin, the agency's [illegible] Also in the bright [illegible] Emma Thompson as MIB chief Agent O, Mike Colter as a sympathetic army colonel, and Nicole Scherzinger as Boris' [illegible] girlfriend. [illegible] in standard post-blockbuster style by veteran Barry Sonnenfeld from a screenplay by David Koepp, Etan Cohen, Jeff Nathanson, and Michael Soccio, adapted from a comic series by Lowell Cunningham. (106 min.) (KV)

Moonrise Kingdom From the [illegible] god of the Wes Anderson [illegible] (*The Darjeeling Limited*, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*) comes the tale of Suzy (Kara Hayward) and Sam (Jared Gilman), a pair of precocious teenage runaways who give everyone on the New England island of New Penzance a chance to launch into Anderson's precious dialogue. It, and the story (by Anderson and Roman Coppola) are [illegible] and to little demonstrable purpose. Might have been better as an animation à la *Fantastic Mr. Fox*; the art [illegible] is consistently more interesting than the story. But then we wouldn't have to miss out on Bill Murray, Frances McDormand, Bruce Willis, Tilda Swinton, Jason Schwartzman, Harvey Keitel, and [illegible] as various purported authority figures. Come to think of it, that might not be such a bad idea. A step backward for Anderson. (97 min.) (KV)

People Like Us Half-a-hanky family drama gets [illegible] mileage out of the [illegible] long-lost sibling" device, as a [illegible] (Chris Pine) [illegible] a sentimental journey back home for his estranged father's funeral. There, he reunites with his equally [illegible] half-sister (Elizabeth Banks) and his [illegible] (Michelle Pfeiffer), and [illegible] nephew, an [illegible] eleven-year-old boy (Michael Hall D'Addario) of the type who always [illegible] Surprisingly, it all hangs together under the guidance of [illegible] Alex Kurtzman, who wrote the screenplay with [illegible] and Jody Lambert. There's [illegible] should be a [illegible] that mysterious thing called "chemistry." It works perfectly. (115 min.) (KLY)

Prometheus In 2093, on a distant planet, [illegible] a spaceship full of scientists has gone [illegible] the origins of life on Earth; problems arise. In order not to spoil the surprises of Ridley Scott's amusingly entertaining sci-fi spectacle, we won't say much more about what those surprises are, but they bear a strong resemblance to Scott's massively influential monster-in-space pic, *Alien*. [illegible] Scott uses [illegible] special effects technology to show the wonders of the [illegible] and even though in the final analysis *Prometheus* never quite reaches the heights of *Blade Runner* or the original *Alien*, it [illegible] enough [illegible] to do the job. Believable, fully fleshed-out performances by Noomi Rapace, Charlize Theron, Idris Elba, Logan Marshall-Green, and especially Michael Fassbender as [illegible] Screenplay by Jon Spaihts and Damon Lindelof. (124 min.) (KLY)

The Amazing Spider-Man

Rock of Ages The [illegible] comic adventures of a new girl in late-1980s Hollywood (squeaky-clean Julianne Hough) and her wannabe rocker boyfriend (Diego Boneta) get the [illegible] treatment from Adam Shankman, who also directed the screen musical version of *Hairspray*. But [illegible] are [illegible] Alec Baldwin and Russell Brand are a riot as the "business partners" at the Bourbon Club, as is Paul Giamatti in the role of a sleazy [illegible] musical guest Mary J. Blige [illegible] of a Sunset Strip pole-dancing club. Most [illegible] scene-stealer: Tom Cruise as a [illegible] aging rock idol [illegible] every time he's in shot the action slows to a crawl. The real savior of the show is the [illegible] of vintage hard-rock hits by such bands as Journey, Def Leppard, Foreigner, and REO Speedwagon, [illegible] by the cast, who reportedly did their own singing. Also notable: Malin Akerman as a [illegible] and Catherine Zeta-Jones as the mayor's wife, a [illegible] Justin Theroux, Allan Loeb, and Chris D'Arienzo adapted the screenplay from D'Arienzo's stage musical. (123 min.) (KV)

Safety Not Guaranteed Actress Aubrey Plaza is the best thing about this [illegible] involving three mismatched investigative reporters — skeptical Plaza, [illegible] Jake M. Johnson and nerd Karan Soni — on the trail of a rural weirdo who claims to have a time machine ([illegible] Mark Duplass). The real mission they all need to accomplish is to [illegible] Underwritten and overplayed, it's the sort of movie that makes audiences gush at Sundance ([illegible] that's part of their job) and yawn everywhere else. [illegible] Plaza, whose [illegible] as a [illegible] joke, may hold the key [illegible] something from it. Screenplay by Derek Connolly. Directed by Colin Trevorrow. (94 min.) (KV)

Seeking a Friend for the End of the World Earth will be destroyed by an asteroid in 21 days, and the end can't come fast enough for [illegible] Steve Carell, a lonely [illegible] whose wife has left him [illegible] But then, when all is [illegible] Dodge [illegible] Penny (Keira Knightley), a [illegible] neighbor with a [illegible] dog named Sorry. They take a [illegible] trip through apocalyptic America and discover true love. Just [illegible] screenplay by [illegible] Lorene Scafaria can be. Even if [illegible] only a few days until the world explodes, you wouldn't want to waste your precious time on junk like this.

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Take This Waltz

Costarring Tovita Coons, William Peterson, Derek Luke and Robert Duvall. (108 min.)

Snow White and the Huntsman Action-fantasy take on the Brothers Grimm fairytale. Directed by Rupert Sanders; written by Evan Daugherty, John Lee Hancock, and Hossein Amini; starring Kristen Stewart, Charlize Theron and Chris Hemsworth. (127 min.)

Ted Seth MacFarlane-helmed comedy about a man whose teddy bear comes to life. (Seriously.) Directed by MacFarlane; written by MacFarlane, Alec Sulkin, and Wellesley Wild; starring Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, and Joel McHale.

That's My Boy Comedy about a former teen idol (Adam Sandler) who is [illegible] with his son (Andy Samberg). Directed by Sean Anders; written by David Caspe. Also starring Leighton Meester.

To Rome With Love Woody Allen's sojourn in Europe (*Match Point*, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, *Midnight in Paris*) gets stuck in a warmed-over pot of marinara sauce with this [illegible] written, haphazardly [illegible] comic anthology. Stew an unrelated group of characters experiencing Allen's idea of the classic City. Best of the vignettes is Benigni's [illegible], as an ordinary man suddenly and inexplicably elevated to celebrity status. But the "central" plot revolving around [illegible] Architects Jesse Eisenberg, Ellen Page, Greta Gerwig, and Alec Baldwin as a one-man Greek chorus — is probably the one we wanted to see carried across the finish line. It doesn't make it, though, and neither does the silly [illegible] with Penelope Cruz as the [illegible] hooker [illegible] Alessandro Tiberi and his new bride Alessandra Mastronardi. The bit [illegible] the Allen [illegible] a retired music producer, trying to promote an Italian mortician who can only sing in the shower (Fabio Armiliato), never would have made the cut in Allen's prime period in the '80s. Also with Judy Davis and Alison Pill. (112 min.) (K.V.)

Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection America's favorite cross-dressing matriarch returns, [illegible] in this [illegible] Wall Street whistleblower's [illegible]. Directed and starring Tyler Perry; also with Eugene Levy and Denise Richards. (114 min.)

Your Sister's Sister Your Sister's Sister [illegible] a uniquely complicated love triangle, which is explored with great charm and clarity for the duration of the film. [illegible] heterosexuality, and the sometimes cruel and even criminal things we so blithely do to each other. Like [illegible] Lynn Shelton's previous *Humpday*, it's a film that's made by its performances, which are all wonderful. The best moments are the smallest: deeply connected [illegible] running stories [illegible] shots between [illegible]. Sister loses its footing a bit, and characters behave in ways that [illegible] power. Yet it's a small, beautifully acted film that touches on [illegible] themes of deep issues (grief, family, forgiveness) [illegible] surrounding [illegible]. (89 min.) (P.S.)

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DAILY (2 projector 3D) 2:00, 7:00, 9:30
DAILY (Digital 2D) 11:30 4:30

TED (R)
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ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JULY 5

The Mysterious Island (101 min., 1961). Flashbacks. (UA Berkeley 7, Berkeley, 8:00)

FRIDAY, JULY 6

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (91 min., 1953). Super Cinema Series (Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 3:00)

La notte (108 min., 1961). In Italian with English subtitles. Bellissima: Leading Ladies of the Italian Screen (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

Remember (125 min., 1967). In French with English subtitles. A Theater Near You (PFA, 9:15)

SATURDAY, JULY 7

Unrated Richter Tempus (97 min., 2011). In Tswana and English with English subtitles. (PFA, 6:30)

La strada (108 min., 1954). In Italian with English subtitles. Bellissima: Leading Ladies of the Italian Screen (PFA, 8:30)

SUNDAY, JULY 8

A Boy Walker Richter Ferria (30 min., 1967). Preceded by Why Man Creates (28 min., 1968). Berkeley Underground Film Society (788 Gilman St, Berkeley, 7:00)

This is Not a Film (75 min., 2011). In Farsi with English subtitles. A Theater Near You (PFA, 5:15)

Always for Pleasure (58 min., 1978). With filmmaker Les Blank in person. Preceded by *Running Around Like a Chicken with Its Head Cut Off* (4 min., 1960) and *Dry Wood* (37 min., 1973). Always for Pleasure: The Films of Les Blank (PFA, 7:00)

MONDAY, JULY 9

The Tempest (2012). Ashland Shakespeare Festival Live (Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, 1:00)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

Food Economy (40 min., 2010). Preceded by discussion and social hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by discussion. Films of Fact and Life (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

Nights of Cabiria (110 min., 1957). In Italian with English subtitles. Bellissima: Leading Ladies of the Italian Screen (PFA, 7:00)

One Man, Two Guvnors (180 min., 2012). London National Theatre Live (Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, 7:00)

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(11:45 2:30 4:50) 7:00 9:40 PG
No 7pm Show Mon, Wed or Thur
Matinee Show Moved [illegible] Mon and Wed
[illegible] UP EARLY SHOW Sun, July 10 at 2pm

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MAGIC MIKE
(1:00 2:30 4:45) 7:15 7:40 9:40 10:00 R

A CAT IN PARIS
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MOONRISE KINGDOM (PG-13)
[illegible]
MOONRISE KINGDOM (PG-13)
[illegible]

PIEDMONT 4186 Piedmont Ave. at 41st, Oakland

MOONRISE KINGDOM (PG-13)
[illegible]
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DEEPLY FEED (NR)
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EVIL YOUNG JOURNEYS (PG)
[illegible]
BRAVE (PG)
[illegible]
BRAVE 3D (PG)
[illegible]
SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED (R)
[illegible]
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R)
[illegible]
PEOPLE LIKE US (PG-13)
[illegible]
SEEKING A FRIEND FOR THE END OF THE WORLD (R)
[illegible]
YOUR SISTER'S SISTER (R)
[illegible]
Richter (PG-13)
[illegible]

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MUSIC

THE RELUCTANT SUPER SONIDO

After amassing a huge collection of rare Latin music, Joseph Franko rendered himself a de facto ambassador

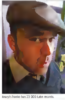
By Rachel Swan

But for the sleek flat-screen computer in his study, Joseph Franko's apartment in East Oakland has the look and feel of a mausoleum. It's neat and orderly and filled with enough antiquated objects to make the average hoarder salivate. The living room bookshelves are full of old, mildewy canonical texts by writers like Herman Hesse and Kurt Vonnegut; the refrigerator is a gleaming canvas upon which Franko hangs photographs of all his friends (actually, everyone who comes by, he admitted). The shelves and cardboard boxes in the hallway are filled with Latin records — 23,000, Franko said with a wan smile. A real estate agent by day, he has amassed a monstrously large collection of obscure Latin music. It's made him an ambassador — albeit a somewhat reluctant one.

The records in Franko's collection represent a panoply of musical history spanning three decades; most of them were released in the Sixties, Seventies, or Eighties, he said. They include Dominican merengue, *bachata*, Colombian-style salsa, old-school bolero, polyrhythmic Latin jazz, Brazilian samba, garage rock, boogaloo, descarga, and reggae en *Español*. But the biggest draw might be cumbia, a form of Afro-Colombian and Panamanian music that Franko has studied assiduously for more than a decade. Initially, he was bedeviled by its "lowbrow" distinction. His Nicaraguan grandmother disparaged cumbia and other Afro-Latin forms for being too vulgar, but Franko was easily seduced by the ambling 2/4 rhythms and slinky melodies. He began immersing himself in the genre while traveling through Latin America in the Nineties, then accumulated a cache of records at the behest of his friend Eamon Ore-Giron (aka DJ Lengua). In 2003, Franko boosted his collection by purchasing 20,000 7-inch records from a moribund Mexican radio station in Colorado — enough to fill his apartment, his parents' house, and even a storage unit that he rented to accommodate the overflow.

That's when he helped launch a DJ night, Club Unicornio, with fellow vinyl enthusiasts Julio Cesar Morales (Finger Lust), Luis Elades, Juan Luna-Avin (Pobres Kumenes) and Ore-Giron. With the somewhat lofty mission of "bringing Spanish-language music back to the Mission District," they took over the Casanova Lounge one night a month, rechristening it after a defunct Tijuana strip club. Franko went by the handle "Sonido Franko."

It was a lofty goal, but the laws of supply and demand worked in their favor. Franko said. "At that time, nobody else was doing that — especially at a hipster club," he explained. It turned out Latinos in the Bay Area were nostalgic for the Spanish-language pop they'd grown up with, as well as the more traditional music from their parents' collections. Elades and Morales both played a lot of pop en Español from the Eighties, and people sang along on the dance floor. A whole consortium of table-bussers and dishwashers would show up after work. Some people drove in from the South or East Bay because they couldn't find a similar party anywhere else. Although the founders jumped ship after a few years, their legacy remained, and Franko found himself unable to shake it.


Joseph Franko has 23,000 Latin records.

In fact, he preserved the "Unicornio" brand by starting a Latin indie record label, Discos Unicornio, which specialized in obscure, underground music. It folded about a year ago, but Franko keeps a lot of the releases on his shelves, still wrapped in their plastic-coated jackets. He pulled a few out last Saturday night to illustrate: a broken beat cumbia mix by DJ Lengua, a seven-inch by DJ Roger Mas, and a 2010 release by the Los Angeles-based psychedelic-rock group Chicano Batman. Though Franko, now 41, ultimately became disenchanted with the indie music business — mostly because of the paltry paper returns — he made a lasting imprint during his tenure.

Five years ago Franko started the blog Super Sonido, meant as a vessel through which to distribute all the music he'd archived over the years. It gained traction pretty quickly — there are, indeed, few sites that compile rare Latin music in such a comprehensive way. Yet Franko seemed ambivalent about his role as an aggregator. "I think I have to come clean to offer the various explanations of why I went ahead and started an audio blog," he wrote on the site's "about" page, which featured a cartoon avatar of the author — well-dressed and pleasantly corpulent, the buttons all but popping out of his white work shirt. (The real Franko is more of an overgrown teenager with a Fifties pompadour.) "For the last 12 years or so I have had this chronic disease/sickness called record collecting....Common symptoms included breaking hearts, getting my heart broken, damaging my liver ... letting my day job go down in the toilet, buying shit piles of Latin records and 45s to the point where I was completely overwhelmed." He described the audio blog as both an anodyne and a logical next step.

As it turns out, Franko's addiction to record collecting stems from two competing threads in his biography: That of the footloose world traveler, and that of the insular hoarder. The son of an Italian race-horse trainer and a Nicaraguan real estate agent, he grew up speaking Spanish and English, got heavy into punk as a student at De La Salle High School in Concord, and decided in his early twenties to become an expat. In 1994, he took a 54-hour bus ride down to Guanajuato, Mexico, to enroll in art school. He lived there for three years, then spent the rest of the decade traveling through Latin America, staying with family members in El Salvador and Nicaragua and absorbing their musical tastes — he says that at that time most of the country were listening to reggae en *Español* and a cloying form of popular salsa. Franko began collecting records as a way to document that period. Eventually, his music catalog took on a life of its own, forcing him into a custodial role. Franko became a DJ in 2001 partly owing to a sense of personal responsibility. "People were telling me to do it," he confessed.

At this point, the *Super Sonido* library has mushroomed into a vast public archive. Each post is a first-person diary entry structured around the moment of discovering some cool recorded gem — usually he'll include a brief historical exegesis and several free audio files, most of them digitized from his own collection (he keeps a record player plugged into his computer). Music junkies began writing in from Mexico, South America, and the UK. Some begged Franko for rare reissues (which he'll gladly produce at no cost). Others wanted to interview him for their own blogs or zines. Though the web site began losing steam as Franko redirected more energy to his day job — having never recouped a dime from music, he views it strictly as a hobby — it still garners several hundred hits a day.

Franko spent the last few years presenting cumbia DJ nights at various clubs in downtown Oakland, usually to very small crowds — he says that other DJs would show up to scour his record crates, but few people came to dance. Two years ago he hooked up with local DJ Trey Bayless to start a new dance party, Carne Trémula, every third Thursday at The Layover. Named for Pedro Almodóvar's 1997 pulp drama, it features vintage Latin 45s mixed with the occasional house or dubstep record. Franko says that Oakland clubgoers have finally cottoned to the idea, and they've even stopped accosting him at the DJ table, asking for hip-hop. He still waffles a little about whether to persist his stewardship of old Latin music: It's a labor of love that is indeed a labor, he said. Having a successful club night helps, though. Not to mention there's still significant demand. To this day, fans of the old Club Unicornio drive in from far away just to hear the songs of their childhood. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Joe Franko hosts Carne Trémula every third Thursday at The Layover (1517 Franklin St., Oakland), 9:30 p.m., free. OaklandLayover.com

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A WOMAN AND HER PUPPETS, A MAN AND HIS MACHINES

Quintron and Miss Pussycat bring their cavalcade of puppets and new gadgetry to downtown Oakland

Ashleyanne Krigbaum

For more than fifteen years, Quintron has been perfecting his blend of murky, low-fidelity drum beat patterns and fast-paced organ melodies for a sound that's almost impossible to categorize. Based in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Quintron describes his music as "swamp-tech" — "like rock 'n' roll, but more swampy and techy." He and his longtime collaborator, spouse, and master puppeteer Miss Pussycat perform live alongside each other, assembling an unstoppable experience of outsider art and music.

Onstage last Friday at The New Parish, Miss Pussycat began with an overture — actually a complex and darkly humorous puppet show. Appearing on an eight-foot tall stage bedecked in neon pink vinyl and gold glitter, the characters engaged in laconic dialogue and embarked on an absurd adventure that included fake blood, explosions, blacklights, and a cameo by Dracula in a tinfoil spaceship. Miss Pussycat narrated the story, accompanied by a soundtrack of original electronic music. At the end of this hallucinatory expedition, the lights on stage dimmed, the fog machines revved, and a low and ominous tone emanated from Quintron's instruments, hushing the audience in anticipation of the dance party about to commence.

Once Quintron took his seat behind the retrofitted Lincoln Continental grill that adorned the front of his Hammond organ/Fender Rhodes synthesizer hybrid, dissonant notes erupted in a staccato rhythm, bouncing into the room like a defibrillating wave. His nimble fingers clobbered each of the two keyboards with a fluidity that resonated throughout his lanky frame, while he simultaneously pounded his left foot in order to control the high hat cymbals that punctuated the droning tones of his hand-built, light-activated sound machine the Drum Buddy. These are the only instruments Quintron requires to compose a full rumbling wall of sound that elevates the concept of a one-man band to a schizophrenic, yet soulful, new dimension.

The Drum Buddy isn't just a supporting member in Quintron and Miss Pussycat's performances; rather, it's the grand marshal of their psychedelic parade. Devised by Quintron, it resembles a turntable but serves as a melodic and percussive instrument. A punctured coffee can rotates around a lightbulb, forming patterned, buzzing sounds that rely on interactions between the photo-sensitive resistors and specially designed oscillators attached to the machine. It includes four drum tones — snare, kick, bass, and scratch — each with a corresponding light sensor and oscillator, each triggered by the speed at which the coffee can rotates. Quintron manipulates the can by hand, similar to a DJ scratching vinyl, but with a far more alien timbre. In layman's language, it's a cool bit of whiz-bang gadgetry.

The majority of their repertoire on Friday night highlighted selections from Quintron's latest album, *Sucre du Sauvage*, released last year on Goner Records. But the most impressive songs were ones they had written many years prior, all executed with the zeal that musicians usually reserve for tackling new material. And their attitude was only outpaced by their arsenal. From the first punch of the organ, Quintron rendered himself a one-man orchestra. He exuded low, long blats from the Drum Buddy and mixed them with the greasy electronic beats that bounced from his custom organ/synth monstrosity. Miss Pussycat belted out lyrics while shaking her maracas, and the crowd shouted along throughout the entire evening. At several points in their performance, Miss Pussycat found comfort bouncing and drinking on the dance floor along with the audience, fostering a sense of community that clung thick in the muggy air.

This was the duo's first performance in Oakland in several years, and its members delivered a surreal and spirited show filled with elements that can only be experienced live. With their mixture of costumes, characters, dance beats, and heartfelt enthusiasm, Quintron and Miss Pussycat enjoined fans in Oakland to let loose, Crescent City style, and celebrate our own eccentricity. And in true Oakland fashion, we did not hesitate in doing so. ■

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

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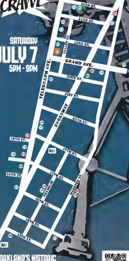

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10 Pandemonium Press
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16 Sexy Beasts
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17 Poetry from the Heart of Mystery
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18 Retard
The Layover
1817 Franklin St.

LEG THREE
8pm - 9pm

19 East Bay on the Brain
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20 Naked Bulb
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21 Tourettes Without Regrets
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The Flaming Lips

The Flaming Lips and Heady Fwends

Over the course of the past year or so, The Flaming Lips have set a Guinness World record (for most shows played in a single day); released an EP via a USB embedded in a (distressingly lifelike) gummy fetus and been invited by Erykah Badu to "kiss [her] glittery ass" (after a collaboration video was leaked allegedly without the singer's permission). All of which is more or less par for the course for what's come to be the most proudly batshit band in music — but, unfortunately, has served as a distraction from the release of the band's best album in years.

The Flaming Lips and Heady Fwends's gimmick — because of course it has to have one — is that it's composed of collaborations recorded with artists both very expected (Prefuse 73) and very not (Ke$ha), and released in conjunction with Record Store Day. It's a conceit that could easily come off as disjointed, but apparently something kinda magical happens when Wayne Coyne makes some *Fwends*. Instead of either competing with or disappearing into his collaborators, Coyne figures out how to make the best of them — "2012," for example, puts Ke$ha's hot mess sound in perfect context as part of a jerky space jam loosely based on David Bowie's "1969," and "Helping the Retarded to Find God" strips Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeroes of some of the obnoxious tweeness they've cultivated, with minimal instrumentation and pure plainspoken vocals.

It's clear that with *Heady*, the Lips aimed to create something quick, cheap, and easy: a one-off novelty record that would make the music blogs for its out-there collabos and give people something to chew on until their next "real" release. What they got was a great record: thirteen songs that manage to both stand alone and come together perfect as a particular and comfortable in their weirdness. (Warner Bros.)

— Ellen Cushing

Don Williams

And So It Goes

A friend told me what he admired about country singer Don Williams: "He doesn't write everything he records and he doesn't record everything he writes." A fine songwriter himself, Williams knows creativity and originality aren't mutually exclusive. That his velvety bass-baritone voice comportment favoring gentle contemplation over redneck bluster, and his distinctive melding of acoustic folk simplicity and countrypolitan finesse are hallmarks of a career that's seen him amass seventeen number-one country hits (1974-1991). In the interim his songs have been covered by Eric Clapton, Pete Townsend and Lambchop.

His first album in eight years, *And So It Goes* finds Williams' style flourishing, with longtime producer Garth Fundis co-helming. The hallmarks endure: softly crackling guitars (with occasional blues overtones), steady Johnny Cash-like beat, sighing pedal steel, a small string section, and that voice exuding his mix of sanguinity, patience, and hard-won wisdom. Even when songs (only two co-written by Williams) lean toward corniness — the devotional "She's a Natural," the honky-tonk lament "Imagine That" — Williams' unassuming, kindhearted manner elevates them. "First Fool in Line" has subtle Southern R&B guitar motifs, and "I Just Come Here for the Music" features a sweetly winsome harmony from bluegrass doyenne Alison Krauss. "Infinity" is a charming number wherein the narrator connects the mysteries of the universe with romantic devotion. While no new ground is broken, neither has age (he's 73) dimmed his abilities one bit. Welcome back, boss. (Sugar Hill)

— Mark Keresman

SpaceGhostPurrp

Mysterious Phonk: The Chronicles of SpaceGhostPurrp

There are no structures in the hermit kingdom that Miami's *SpaceGhostPurrp* calls home. Dreams don't have to loop, chillwave and trap rap are the same thing. Guided by an exacting ear for bizarre no-fi production, *Mysterious Phonk: The Chronicles of SpaceGhostPurrp* intersects somewhere between Holy Other, Washed Out, and Waka Flocka. It's a head trip sealed off from outsiders, with tracks that rarely acknowledge a world beyond the internet and whatever ruins remain of Carol City, Florida.

Mysterious Phonk doubles down on the unmarketable cynicism that informed last year's *Blackland Radio 66.6*. Our narrator is a demonstrably damaged 21-year-old who rhymes about pills ("Mystikal Maze"), paganism ("Raider Prayer"), and friendlessness ("Don't Give a Damn"). Couched in witchy reverb, his warpings of bedroom pop and late-Nineties Southern rap are just as self-referential but the underlying layout brings out the ghoulish humor in lines like *My heart is black, I don't trust a bitch/I hate this fucking world, y'all can suck my dick.* On "Been Fuego," bells and chimes congeal into a heavy smog. "Danger" and "Grind on Me" are as linear and uncouth as Bigga's "Fuck You Tonight," but about a tenth as charming.

The album breaks from a very Miami tradition of macho pedagogy and business-minded know-how: SpaceGhostPurrp is not Sonny Crockett or Albert Gonzalez and has no time for their fucking resort wear. More a doomy paean to isolationism than a hip-hop album, *Mysterious Phonk* chews up genre conventions and spits them out with the teeth of a swirling void. (4AD)

— M.T. Richards

LOCAL LICKS

BY [illegible]

The Mockingbirds

Locura

Folk singer Paul McNees built this album around the idea of mortality and "negative space" — it's framed as a eulogy for his dad — but not every song is dismal. In fact, many of McNees' tunes sound deceptively sweet and simple, buoyed by simple guitar melodies and an accordion. The lyrics are plainspoken and nostalgic; the songs could almost be hymns. Multi-instrumentalist Mark Growden handled the arrangements. (self-released)

Kat Parra

Las Aventuras de Pasión!

Unsigned but acclaimed singer Kat Parra specializes in several forms of Latin music (bolero, cha cha, rumba, bomba and an obscure form of Spanish Sephardic music), bolstering her polyglot lyrics with bold orchestrations. Trombonist Wayne Wallace handled most of the arrangements on this album, and they're undoubtedly the main selling point — the string section on "Call Your Name," which features violinists Mads Tolling and Lila Sklar, is just breathtaking. (self-released)

Starskate

Goodnight Nobody EP

"Trash rock" would probably be the most appropriate descriptor for this garage fourtet. Starskate specializes in the kind of fast, fiery, thrashy tunes that start with a drummer hitting his sticks together at a tempo that's decidedly slower than the actual song. That said, they aren't incapable of writing a ballad every once in a while. "Bodega Babes" is the slow-dance number on this EP, and it's redolent of beaches. (self-released)

The Dicks

These People

That The Dicks' songs sound deceptively contemporary despite their actual publication date — most were originally released in the early Eighties — could be a testament to the punk band's longevity. Or to the staying power of traditional, thrashy four-piece garage rock. Or to the durability of lyrics about loneliness, desperation, and mortality. Listen closely to singer Gary Floyd, and you'll hear that most of his agony stems from the same class disparities and injustices that affect society today. (Alternative Tentacles) ●

Bay Area bands: show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*.

CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 5

EAST BAY

All Ages

High Sierra Music Festival with Tom Hagens, STS9, Railroad Earth, Dr. Dog, Built To Spill, Toots and the Maytals, Ryan Bingham, Soulive, ALO, Lotus, Greta Spirit, Assateam Bastards, Big Gigantic, The Dave Matthews Three, UkeFish, Greensky Bluegrass, Garage P Trick, and many more, Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, July 5-8, $180-$185 per 3-day pass.

Blues, Folk & Country

The ABC Jam (Americana, Blues & Country), hosted by The Goldiggers, Starry Plough, 8 p.m., free
The Blackberry Mountain Stringband with Windy Hill, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50-$22.50
Paper Bird with Yes Way, Subterranean Arthouse, 8 p.m., $10-$15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Mel Stone The Alley, 8 p.m., free
Skip Henderson and Graciosis Space Queen's Lighthouse, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

DJ Unleash plays Happy Days House Piano Bean Valley, 8 p.m., free
L.A. Witch with The Sister Ruby Band, Santeros, and Matt Words, Stork Club, 9:30 p.m., $8
Words Above with Society Dog, Ri's Mile High Club, 8 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Gerro Evans Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $15, $18

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Furro Housemates Trio with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 4-8 p.m., free
Sleepy Jones Top of the Rose, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Cocktails with Pralines and Santa Rays, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $8
Cory Branan with Audra Mae, Travis Hayes, Mal Effrock, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., $10
Freeze Congregation with Dagoll, Brown Mountain, and Anhedonist, SoMa/Warton Gallery, 7 p.m., $15
The Gaslight Outrun with Gentlehouse, The Indigo, Independent, 8 p.m., $15
Elars with Codiniel Weapon, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $22.50
Stagger & Fall with My Filthy Slugs and The Saw Thumbs, Brainwash Hill, 9 p.m., $10
Terraplane Gon with Ry Cunning and Family Wagon, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Smokey Robinson with the SF Symphony, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $30

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Ima & Los Mios Mezcal, 9:30 p.m., free
Quetzals Thursdays with Brenne Mattoo & Stephanie Novarez, Peña Pachamama, 8 p.m., $12

FRIDAY 6

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Space Streams the American Orchestra Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50-$22.50
First Friday Follies burlesque night with MC Baby D, light and live music, Stork Club, 9 p.m., free
Jonas Bark High Rivers Station Cafe, 7:30 p.m., $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

John Santos & His Sextet Piedmont Metro Company, 8 p.m., $18
MJ's Brass Boppers Three Mattoo, 8 p.m., $5
Mel Stone dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free
Roy Ayers Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $28-$39

Rock & Pop

Angry Reasons with Jock Killed Jill, Trouble Maker, Anti-Social, and Between Your Teeth, 924 Gilman, 7 p.m., $10
P P B The Bus with The Fruit, The Uptown, 8 p.m., $15
Dave Spoon piano stome of Railroad oldies, jazz & pop, Yoshi's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free
Ocean Congregation with Grave Mattoo Antireband, Valiance Workshop, and Apocryphon, Railroad Metro Operahouse, 7 p.m., $15
Hell On Wheels Stork Club, 9 p.m., $6
Hoobastank Alameda County Fairgrounds
The House Jacks Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $28.50, $30.50
Landmine Marathon with Storms At Ashes and No Fucks Given, Ri's Mile High Club, 7 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

SAMSLI & The NBK The New Parish, 9 p.m., $10-$15
Space Ghost 450 Gallery, 7 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Coco Blanco with guest artists Ivan Bravo, Rebelio Galeras, Pedro Peralbo, Bravo Lo Santos, and the Rampey Bags, La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $13-$15
Strings with Gourou Gubanon, Bonne Staats, and Paul Shoneman, plus Bennison and Armenian dance lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $11-$15
Lagos Storm American Ensemble Mua, 10 p.m., $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Jerry Green & Railroad Matthouse Space Brewhouse, 9 p.m.-midnight, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ana Mandara Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 6-11:30 p.m., free
Black Market Jazz Matthouse Top of the Mark, 9 p.m., $10
Ona Prell's Bebop Ensemble Bow & Rocket Scene and Records, 9:30-5 p.m., free
Eddie Pasternak Trio with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 5-8 p.m., free
George Gorbanis Stork Bistro, 6:30 p.m.

Rock & Pop

The Aquarians with Go-Going-Gone-Girls and the Wheatie Whistlers, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $8
Matthouse with Grahame Lesh And Friends and Powerslug, Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $8-$12
Blind Pilot with Lena Gibson and Holiday Friends, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $22.50
Cultural with Cintas Hideout, Adventurous, Upholstery Jackson Jackson, and La Perr, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $8
Kelley Stoltz with Shana Falana, The Ohs, Blank Abstract, and DJ Neil Quetzals, Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m., $9-$12
The XYX with Deathday and Oh's, Bolly Mission Gallery, 9:30 p.m., $7
Tom Orlovsky with The Trophy Fire and Rags & Ribbons, Brainwash Hill, 10 p.m., $12
Ona Worlds with Peatties, Bow's, 9 p.m., $11, $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

E40 & YB Gill Graham Civic Restaurant, 8 p.m., $32

SATURDAY 7

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

East Bay Honky-Tonk DJ Sal Shadow spins classic country, bluegrass, alt-country, honky-tonk, blues & more, The Emeryville Tavern, 11 p.m., free
Mayley's Cleveland with Sarah Mattoo, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50-$26.50
Railroad Family Singers Happy Hour, Starry Plough, 8 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

Carnatic Bamboo Flute Concert with Mohan Rangan Govindaraj and Vignesh Venkataraman, Subterranean Arthouse, 7 p.m.
Ian Avera & Railroad Summer American Majors American Center For The Arts, 8:30 p.m., $10, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Claudia Bremmer Pub, 8:30 p.m., 12:30 a.m., $3
Jazz & Joy Tavern of Joy, 5:30 p.m., free
Linsey Storm & the ene one Skilled Horses with dance lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $10, $15
The Lost Cats High Street Station Cafe, 7:30 p.m., $7, $10
Ona Worlds dinner jazz with guest Mattoo singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free
Roy Ayers Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $35, $45
TopLowry Bass and Mind Fox American Metro Company, 8 p.m., $8
Words on Strings with Karie Ross and Sebuco Trio, Jerons Cafe, 7:30 p.m., free

Kids

Los Amigolios de La Peña Drearily morning children's show with live video, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m., $8, kids $5

Rock & Pop

Climb with A Beautiful Dirt, Railroad and Windvane, Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m., $15
Dave Spoon piano stome of Railroad oldies, jazz, & pop, Yoshi's Restaurant, 9 p.m., free
The Degrees with Railroad and The Green Lady Killers, the Uptown, 9 p.m., $15
Johnny Mattoo & The Charlatenotes with The Tigers and The Heavywhisters, Stork Club, 9:30 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

DJ Red H Honey's Locker, 8 p.m., free
Words Day & The Bees Alameda County Fairgrounds

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Farro Bremman Mua, 8 p.m., $5
Peruvian Lands La Peña Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m., $16

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Colonel Zoot Doggeron Saloon, 9:30 p.m., free
Mattheute di Mattoo Italian folk music with Steve Magnano, Caffe Greco, 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Steve Pasternak Trio with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 5-8 p.m., free
Fillmore Jazz Festival Fillmore St. (Railroad Jackson and Eddy sts.), 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

The Amnions Trio with M Sutton, Thee Parkside, 3 p.m., free

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LOU-LOU AND THE GYPSY JIVERS
WED 7/4
Lou-Lou "Lou Lou" Mathieu teamed up with Joe Kyle Jr. Tom Bowyer and Ralph Carney to share a joyful celebration of Railroad titled an "Gypsy Jive," the debut album from the Oakland-based Lou Lou and the Gypsy Jivers. This album is a fresh Space hybrid blend of South African Jazz and Gypsy Jazz that takes music lovers on a musical journey through South Africa.

SELECTOR DJ TOPH ONE & BRASS TAX
THU 7/5
The Oakland & Brass Tax crew are all about turning the party out with their bass-heavy tunes and music, costumed energy.
facebook.com/tophone

KAT 010
FRI 7/6
Out on the patio, the one and only Kat 010 (Green City Rockers) will hold it down every Friday from 5-7 with her Space blend of skyward d-groove-DJ theatrics. Kat010.com

THE PARK
Making a name for themselves as the go-to backing band on the West Coast, San Francisco's The Park bring refreshingly rock tinged R&B to their debut solo outing The Process. ...ranging from Goodbird's art-funk rock to slow-groove electric jazz & most things in Americana.
theparkmusic.com

LOVESEAT
SAT 7/7
Bay Keyboard/Bass/Drums trio, LOVESEAT stands apart as an all-star rhythm section with a sound of its own. The band has played to the Bay Area where they are Space. To bring their unique brand of jazz/funk to venues in the Bay Area and beyond. myspace.com/loveseattrio

AMERICANA UNPLUGGED: CRAIG VANTRESCO
SUN 7/8
Fine Okay, oh this is me we're going way way back, when home and happy were the Goodsells.com into the Greg Johnson and yet to record. Craig is what ya might call a ragtime/early blues specialist on guitar.

TUESDAY JAZZIDENCY JASON BODLOVICH GROUP
TUE 7/10
The Jason Bodlovich Group (JBG) is a cross-genre instrumental trio specializing in eclectic jazz, fusion, funk, hip-hop, gospel, rock and soul. jasonbodlovich.com

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PICKS

The Blank Tapes [illegible]
Redwood Grove [illegible]

Gopal [illegible]

Liars with Cadence Weapon

In the beginning, it was easy to lump Liars in with the Brooklyn dance-punk wave that the band helped jump-start in the early aughts. Yet its members haven't lived in New York for the better part of a decade and, more importantly, they've changed their approach from album to album, losing some initial fair-weather fans while establishing more experimental credibility. Liars' latest album, *WIXIW* (released on Mute), features mostly electronic pieces like the single "No. 1 Against the Rush" and the brooding "Octagon." There's an emphasis on synthesizers and processed beats that invoke minimal techno as much as the Eighties soundtracks of John Carpenter. When live drums take the fore, as on "Flood to Flood," the band seems to be updating Silver Apples' cold psychedelia. The album also has rollers like allotted club-banger "Brats," and a couple falsetto ballads from singer Angus Andrew. Learning from past experience, the members of Liars put as much care into their live show as they do into their albums, augmenting the core trio with other players (such as recent San Francisco transplant Jesse [illegible] of [illegible]) in the touring lineup. They'll headline the Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco) on Thursday, July 5. 8 p.m. $22-$25. SlimsPresents.com — *George Chen*

Bay in the Bubble & The Blank Tapes

Judging by the popularity of outdoor concerts at the Henry Miller Memorial Library in Big Sur, there's no shortage of people wanting to enjoy music in the great outdoors. But here in the East Bay, there aren't as many outdoor concerts as you'd think there'd be, considering the vast parkland in our backyard and given that we're home to one of the most picturesque venues — The Greek Theatre. That's changing with the addition of the Redwood Grove summer concert series at the UC Botanical Garden (200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley). "We always knew the redwood grove was a magical place," explained Christine Manoux, the garden's education program coordinator who started hosting a handful of concerts three years ago but this year booked weekly shows — with top-notch local talent — all summer long. The setting — a small wooden stage amidst redwood trees — is intimate, with seating for about two hundred. And because there's no outdoor lighting, concerts start early and end early, too, making it convenient for those with kids. This week's concert features Oakland indie-rockers Bay in the Bubble and throwback rock-n-rollers The Blank Tapes. Bring a picnic and warm clothes (but keep the booze at home). [illegible] 5:30-7:30 p.m., $10–$18 for members, $15 for youth, free for kids under five. BotanicalGarden.berkeley.edu — *Kathleen Richards*

IamSu!

The man behind that seemingly ubiquitous "Up" song has finally become a viable presence in East Bay hip-hop, graduating from the house-party circuit to Friday-night billings at large Oakland venues. IamSu! has also expanded his domain over mainstream radio, with a few sleeper hits and bawdy cameos on songs by E-40 and Clyde Carson. He's an agile, punch line-oriented rapper generally more at ease when he's talking about his libido, though he'll occasionally focus into darker subject matter — his new mixtape *KILT* includes lyrics about poverty and world hunger. And he's charming, to boot. These days, the Pinole Valley High alum is seldom without a giant entourage of fellow rappers, producers and hangers-on, many of who claim membership in his crew, the HBK gang. ("HBK" stands for "Heart Break Kids.") They'll appear at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Friday, July 6, alongside fellow [illegible] Jayant and Abe Frank. 9 p.m., $13-$18. TheNewParish.com — *Rachel Swan*

The Thirstbusters

Along the spectrum of young bands, it's hard to place The Thirstbusters somewhere significantly above the typical scrappy garage experiment, but still several notches below the Justin Bieber/Miley Cyrus stratosphere. And that's exactly how the band — formed at Berkeley High, now at colleges and conservatories across the country — likes it. After all, after its very first video, a sweet and ever-so-slightly self-effacing ode to high-school puppy love (sample lyric: *Hello there/would you like a piece of gum?*) was released to heavy rotation on teen-oriented TV channels, the quartet quickly picked up the kind of steam any eighteen-year-old would dream of: placement on TV movie soundtracks; big-name management contracts; a not insignificant modicum of fame among the most coveted demographic in the universe, teenage girls. According to the band, they were, at one point, in talks to sign with Disney — but, citing the need for "creative control," decided against it. Whether or not that was a smart move, we'll never know, but it's clear that the last few years have given the band the time and space to grow considerably. While Thirstbusters' earlier releases trafficked in a sort of blandly appealing, jam-affected indie-pop that owed a serious debt to John Mayer and Dave Matthews, the circa-2012 Thirstbusters are newer, rockier, a whole lot more interesting, and, well, more adult. The band will celebrate its album release at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Thursday, July 5, along with fellow local prodigies Finish Ticket, plus Bird by Bird and Eager Eyes. 8 p.m., $7-$10. TheNewParish.com — *Ellen Cushing*

Sunnyside Recording Artist (NYC)

Venissa Santí Sextet

Thursday, July 5th

Yoshi's Oakland
510 Embarcadero West
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SAN FRANCISCO

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RACHELLE FERRELL

Tue, July 10 · [illegible]
THE MIKA STOLTZMAN QUINTET
feat. **RICHARD STOLTZMAN**

Wed, July 11 · [illegible]
HOT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

Thu, July 12 · [illegible]
CODY CHESNUTT

Fri, July 13 · Legendary Hammond B3 organ master
[illegible]
BOOKER T. JONES

Sat, July 14
[illegible] singer-songwriter
SOPHIE B. HAWKINS

Wed-Thu, July 18-19
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VENISSA SANTÍ

Fri-Sun, July 6-8
ROY AYERS

Mon, July 9 · [illegible]
GAUCHO
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Tue, July 10 · [illegible]
BILL BELL

Wed, July 11
CALIFORNIA GUITAR TRIO

Thu, July 12
RUTHIE FOSTER

Fri-Sat, July 13-14
RANDY WESTON
African Rhythms Trio

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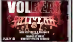
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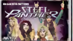
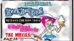
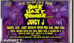
WARFIELD TICKETS HONORED
JULY 8


STEEL PANTHER
JULY 12


REEL BIG FISH
PIETASTERS AND THE KIDS TABLE
SUBURBAN LEGENDS
THE MAXIES
JULY 23


ONE LAZY SUMMER
JUICY J
AUGUST 1

SQUAREPUSHER
AUGUST 2

BOW WOW
AUGUST 11

HANK 3
HELLBILLY
ATTENTION DEFICIT DOMINATION
3 BAR RANCH
AUGUST 24

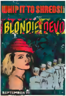
DESAPARECIDOS
(FEATURING CONOR OBERST)
THE VELVET TEEN
AUGUST 29

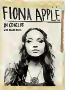
SWANS
XIU XIU
SEPTEMBER 10

DEV
DATARAGE, STARTING 6
DJ SETS BY J ESPINOSA AND TREVOR SIMPSON
SEPTEMBER 21

1300 VAN NESS at SUTTER • THEREGENCYBALLROOM.COM

THE WARFIELD


WHIP IT TO SHREDS!
BLONDIE
DEVO
SEPTEMBER 18


FIONA APPLE
IN CONCERT
with BLAKE MILLS

SEPTEMBER 11

AN EVENING WITH
MERCY ME
WITH FRANCIS CHAN
SEPTEMBER 14

LIVE-GYM 2012 -INTO FREE-
B'Z
SEPTEMBER 17

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JIM JEFFERIES

SATURDAY, JULY 14 • 7PM & 10PM
YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS
ticketmaster TICKETMASTER.COM · 800-745-3000 · GOLDENVOICE.COM

C&C

The Dead Westerns with My Revolver, The Rare Animals, and Rags & Ribbons. Fox of the Hill. 9 p.m. $10.

Flood with Owl and Amara Mansiah. Elbo. 10 p.m. $1.

Grupo Fantasma with Y La Bamba. Great American Music Hall. 9 p.m. $18, $20.

La Gente with Coles O'Hare. Cafe du Nord. 9 p.m. $10-$18.

Lovebird with Madfrenzi, Is The Hat Bagels and The Yes Girls. Amnesia/Lounge. 9:30 p.m. $7.

Hours Jump Up with Hipnotik and DJ Aaron Axelsen. Mezzanine. 9 p.m. $10.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Blackalicious with Richie Cunning and Ras-G. The Independent. 8 p.m. $25.

Rhonin with Pusha T. The Regency Ballroom. 8 p.m. [illegible]

The Jacka & Husalah with Trakamillion. Slim's. 9 p.m. $13, $15.

Saturday Night Soul Party with DJs Lucky, Paul Paul, and Phengren Russos. Elbo Room. 10 p.m. $5-$10.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

LA Gente with [illegible]. Cafe du Nord.

9 p.m. $15.

SUNDAY 8

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged Spider. 8 p.m. free

Gail Flowers Quintet and Vocal Showcase La Peña Cultural Center. 4 p.m. $5-$10.

In The Blues of the Night featuring Bobby Black Quartet, Big Five Dance Party and Jon Goldmark, and the Sinfonics. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $20.50, $22.50.

Jimmy's All-Star Sugar Hookup Jimmy Dillmore hosts band every week. Peter's Restaurant. 8 p.m. free

Lyle Lovett Wente Winery. 7:30 p.m. $48-$95.

Sunday Morning Blues with Rev Jump. Caffe Mediterraneum. 10 a.m. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Lemmons with B-Nome and Anna's Mart. Subterranean Arthouse. 8 p.m. $10-$15.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Annie Kate Jazzschool. 4:30 p.m. $15.

El Wallace jazz-inspired piano improvisations. Roleo Gypsy Cafe. 12:30 p.m. free

Jazz and R&B Night Dorsey's Locker. 8-10 p.m. free

Joe Gansfuhm Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz. Coffee Mill. 2-6 p.m. free

John Schott Actual Cafe. 5 p.m. free

Local Station Cafe Van Kleef. 6 p.m.

The Randy Moore Trio Nick's Lounge. 6:30-10 p.m. free

Roy Ayers Yoshi's Oakland. 6 & 8 p.m. $25, $38.

Terrence Brewer Trio Blues Restaurant & Bar. 6:30 p.m. free

Kids

Sleepy Smiley Kids' series. Ashkenaz. 3 p.m. $4, $6.

Rock & Pop

The Dreaming with Bix Weeks Sober and Arrowgirl Thieves. The New Parish. 8 p.m. $12, $18.

The Hubo Gobbeley Jerry's Room. 2:30 p.m. free

Jump Pickler Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Mosswood Market with The Vulbeat, Joe Fetta, Mod Mouth, and Easy Living, and Troubador. 924 Gilman. 8 p.m. $8.

Jump Foot featuring Flame Queens, Dr. Frank, Jump Anchor, Warner Flash, Addic, Boodr Treats, Yoyo Onodle, and Fever Rooms. Vulbeat Metro Operahouse. 8 p.m. $10, $20.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Domingo de Rhumba Afro-Cuban rumba percussion & dance party. Cafe Valparaiso. 3:30-6:30 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lone Star Americana Thee Parkside. 4 p.m. free

Songwriter Sundays up-and-coming artists perform in the lounge. Hotel Utah Saloon. 9 p.m.-midnight. $3

Terry Hanscourt Johnny Foley's Irish House. 5 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

Michael Rhodes on piano for Sunday Champagne brunch, top of the Mark. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. $50 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Rooms with Future Potential & special guests. 1300 on Fillmore. 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $32 includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dock of the Bay Sunday Jazz series. Sandrea. 5 p.m. $20-$30. $65 dinner and show

Fillmore Jazz Festival Fillmore St. (between Jackson and Eddy sts.). 10 a.m.-6 p.m. free

Vince Saiteta & Friends featuring Andrew Speight, Sam Rocke-Hentz, & Matt Silverman. Boggatah Saloon. 4:30-8:30 p.m. $5

Rock & Pop

Cool Ghouls with L.A. Swing and The Swag Ruby Band. Amnesia Lounge. 9 p.m. $6

Yellowout with Hellyeah and Iced Earth. The Warfield. 8 p.m.

MONDAY 9

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The Freight Jams Sunset Bonds 45 Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $22.50

Porter Tango Argentine tango. Caffe Trieste. 7-9 p.m. free

"Uptown Piddler Holiday" live burlesque with Bubbles Hubba Revue. The Uptown. 8 p.m. $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Calvin Keys 57th Street Gallery. 1 p.m. $5, $10

Guacho CD release. Yoshi's Oakland. 8 p.m. $18

Rock & Pop

Westerns with Bullows & Preachers, Midnight Pain and Empty Rooms. Vitus. 8 p.m. $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot Le Colonial. 7 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Dunde Johnny Foley's Irish House. 9 p.m. free

TUESDAY 10

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

333 Slim's
www.slims-sf.com
333 11th St. (btwn. Folsom & Harrison) San Francisco 415/255-0333

FRI JULY 6 - $16 ADV/$18 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
RED BARAAT
TOMBIRA

SAT JULY 7 - $18 ADV/$22 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
THE JACKA & HUSALAH
TRAKAMILLION
JOE BLOW, GOOD 20 & STREET KNOWLEDGE

FRI JULY 13 - $23 ADV/$26 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
[illegible] PRESENTS
SUN HOP FAT
HARRY & THE HIT MEN
ON THE SPOT TRIO

SAT JULY 14 - $18 ADV/$20 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 8:30
STOMACHER
MISTER LOVELESS
STRUMMALL ARCHITECTURE + SOUNDS ON TAPE

MON JULY 16 - $18 ADV/$18 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
HEARTBREAK & SCION PRESENT
TRASH TALK
SPACEGHOSTPURRP

TUES. & WED. JULY 17 & 18 - $18 ADV/$22 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 8
THE BOUNCING SOULS
THE MENZINGERS
LUTHER

FRI. JULY 20 - $21 ADV/$25 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
MELVINS LITE

SAT JULY 21 - DIRL CITY - SOLD OUT! THANK YOU

TUES. JULY 24 - $18 ADV/$18 DOOR - DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
ALLSTAR WEEKEND
HONOR SOCIETY
RAINESAKE

GREAT AMERICAN MUSIC HALL
www.musichallsf.com
859 O'Farrell St. (btwn. Polk & Larkin) San Francisco 415/885-0750

WED. JULY 4 - $18 ADV/$22.50 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 8
LIARS
CADENCE WEAPON
SHOW MOVED FROM THE FILLMORE - ORIGINAL TIX HONORED

FRI. JULY 6 - $18 ADV/$20 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
[illegible] PRESENTS
BIRDHORSE
GRAHAME LESH & FRIENDS
PRAIRIEDOG

SAT JULY 7 - $18 ADV/$20 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
GRUPO FANTASMA
Y LA BAMBA

THURS. JULY 12 - $18 ADV/$18 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
CODEINE
MARK EITZEL

FRI. JULY 13 - $18 ADV/$18 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
ALMA DESNUDA
DGIN
BIZNAGA

SAT JULY 14 - $14 ADV/$14 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
JOE PUG
THE LOW HOLLERS

THURS. JULY 19 - $22 ADV/$25 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 8
FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE
MIKE VIOLA

FRI. JULY 20 - $18 ADV/$20 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
[illegible]
ALISON HARRIS & THE BARN OWLS

WED. JULY 25 - $18 ADV/$18 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 8
CRYSTAL STILTS

[illegible] Tickets for both venues available at both box offices. [illegible] For tickets by fax only call 415/255-0333 [illegible] Limited accessibility for disabled.
Gibson

Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center

WED 7/4 9:30 pm $10
GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT
JERRY'S KIDS
Wave That Flag!

THU 7/5 9:30 pm $18 $15 adv/stu
REGGAE
SISTER CAROL
Mother Culture
WITH THE I-LIFE PLAYERS

FRI 7/6 9:30 pm $15 $20 adv/stu
BALKAN
EDESSA with Sooren Baronian, Paul Dilanosian, Rowen Storm
8 pm dance lesson

SAT 7/7 9:30 pm $15 $12 students
EAST COAST SWING/LINDY HOP
LAVAY SMITH & HER RED HOT SKILLET LICKERS
1 pm East Coast Swing dance lesson

SUN 7/8 8:30 pm $5
OPEN MIC
SONGWRITERS' OPEN MIC
featuring Tom Rhodes

TUE 7/10 8:30 pm $10
ZYDECO
MARK ST. MARY DELTA BLUES & ZYDECO BAND
8 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson

WED 7/11 9:00 pm $12
GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT
STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL

THU 7/12 9:30 pm $12 $10 adv/stu
INDIE FOLK
Happy Place starring NATHAN MOORE + LONESOME LOCOMOTIVE
High Sierra Decompression Party!

FRI 7/13 9:30 pm $15 $10 adv/stu
BALKAN GREEK - FROM SEATTLE
DROMENO
featuring Christos Govetas & family
8 pm dance lesson

7/18 SAVOY FAMILY CAJUN BAND
7/15 WINDVINO 7/17 TOM RIGNEY
7/19 TOSH BERRYS BASLEY [illegible] MAULEE HUME

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BAND SUBMISSIONS OPEN!

DONATE TO OUR KICKSTARTER!

September is rapidly approaching which means Mission Creek Oakland Music & Art Festival is almost here! This year we are teaming up with the East Bay Express to bring you an entire month of shows!

We have started accepting band submissions for anyone interested in playing this year's festival. Submissions are open to musicians of any genre and not limited to bands of the Bay Area. Anyone anywhere can enter they just need to submit before the July 15th deadline.

Those of us in the MCO camp need your help to offset some of the cost of doing this awesome festival.

Link to our Kickstarter!
http://kck.st/Kzmd2v

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TUESDAY 7/17
DIEGO'S UMBRELLA
9PM FREE COVER
$3 BEER SPECIALS
ALL NIGHT
WEDNESDAY
THE HUNDRED DAYS
FAKE YOUR OWN DEATH
TREMOR LOW
THE BLANK TAPES
8PM $3 COVER
$3 FOOD, $3 BEER SPECIALS
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This is absolutely your last opportunity to take advantage of closeout pricing on our entire remaining inventory from Top Name makers like -

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And many, many more!

Our entire remaining inventory is now being posted to our eBay store and offered Nationally at the same closeout discounts, so hurry in NOW...before everything is gone!

We are also selling our store fixtures.
These include studio furniture, racks, road cases, storage racks, showcases, desks, file cabinets and more.
Come ready to take them away!
Items will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and we will not be taking any layaways or holds.

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Oakland, CA 94609

(510) 653-1000
sales@leosaudio.com
http://leosaudio.com

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THU 7/5 @ 5pm — DJ Lebowitz plays Happy Hour Punk Piano
FRI 7/6 @ 5pm — 1st Fridays with MJ's Brass Boppers! New Orleans Second Line Brass Band, Ya Heard?
TUES 7/10 @ 8pm — The Brewing Co [illegible]
WED 7/11 @ 8pm — Agapi Mou Live Mediterranean Music
THURS 7/12 @ 8pm — Eggplant Casino Every Second Thursday
SAT 7/14 @ 9:30pm — DeeJay Lady Ryan Every Second Saturday!
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Guitarist Paul Brebene
Tues-Weds & Every Other Friday 6:30-8:30pm
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THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB
WED 7/4 CLOSED FOR THE 4TH OF JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA
THU 7/5 9:00PM THE CORNER LAUGHERS [illegible] OLIVIA MANCINI WITH AMERICA HEARTS SUPER NATURAL
FRI 7/6 8:30PM LA DEE DA FOXTAILS BRIGADE THE MISSING PARTS
SAT 7/7 9:00PM MWAHAHA FINN RIGGINS WHITE CLOUD
THU 7/12 8:00PM HAIRY MUSIC PRESENTS SNAPU TEST - AN IMPROVISED CONCERT EXPERIENCE
FRI 7/13 8:30PM HELLA FUN TRIBUTE NIGHT POMEGRANATE [illegible] CHRONIC TOWN MISISIPI MIKE
SAT 7/14 8:30PM GOOD GRAVY WITH SPECIAL GUESTS LONESOME LOCOMOTIVE AMERICAN NOMAD
KITCHEN OPEN DAILY UNTIL 10PM
IRISH SESSION MONDAYS 7:00PM
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3101 SHATTUCK BERKELEY 510.841.2082

C&C

Mark St. Mary Band with Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson at 7 p.m. Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m. $13

Tuesday Night Live Music This week: Quake City Jug band. Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 p.m. $5 suggested

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Eddie Pasternak Duo with Blair Cauley. Cafe Rouge, 6:30 p.m. free

Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring students from the Berkeley music school. Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

Rod Dibble dinner jazz with guest theatre singers. The Alley, 9 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Bill Bob Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $16

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], 9:30 p.m. $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Innerspace Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] with [illegible], 9 p.m. $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] playing soft jazz piano. Top of the Mark, 6:30-11:30 p.m., $5-10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible]. [illegible], 8:35 p.m. $3

[illegible] with [illegible]. Elbo Room, 8 p.m. $6

[illegible] with [illegible], 9 p.m., $8

WEDNESDAY 11

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] production of the musical based on the life and music of the iconic [illegible] singer. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20.50, $24.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m. free

[illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $20

Jazz Theory Performance [illegible] 5th Street [illegible] 6-8 p.m.

[illegible] [illegible] jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] CD release, with [illegible] and [illegible], 9 p.m. $5

KALX 90.7 FM Presents [illegible] weekly local band showcase. The Uptown, 9:30 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m. $10

[illegible] 7 p.m. $8

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $10-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] with [illegible]. [illegible], 7-11 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

[illegible] with [illegible]. Ashkenaz, 7 p.m.

[illegible] with the [illegible], 7 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible], 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] with [illegible]. Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] with [illegible], 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] with [illegible], 8 p.m. $22.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] dance party with [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Pleasure, Mediterranean, & contemporary folk, [illegible], 8 p.m., $12

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

57th Street Art Gallery 5733 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-6004.
924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926.
Air 380 & Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland. 510-444-2377.
[illegible] 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473.
The Alley 3325 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-444-8505.
[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1125.
[illegible] 2905 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-472-3170.
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054.
[illegible] 1 [illegible] Park Pl., Point Richmond. 510-237-1000.
[illegible] 510 17th St. Oakland. 510-444-2286.
[illegible] 1601 [illegible] St., [illegible] 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 1018 B St., Hayward. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 3201 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2500 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-5198.
[illegible] 2500 [illegible] St. [illegible] Berkeley. 510-849-9995
[illegible] 2101 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 478 3rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 3503 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 5422 College Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 1524 [illegible] St., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible]
[illegible] 347 14th St. Oakland. 510-663-0271.
[illegible] 2[illegible] [illegible] Ave. Alameda. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 3829 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 33 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 126 Berkeley [illegible]. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2345 Channing Way Berkeley. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2[illegible] Broadway,
Oakland. 510-444-3556.
[illegible] 1807 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 1[illegible] W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward. 510-[illegible]
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-644-2020.
[illegible] UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley. 510-642-9988.
High Street [illegible] 1303 High St., Alameda. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 1436 [illegible] St. Alameda. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2[illegible] [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237
[illegible] 1813 Park St., Alameda. 510-[illegible]
Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St. Alameda. 510-[illegible]
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-8277
[illegible] 1[illegible] [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 5[illegible] 2nd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Lucky Lounge [illegible] Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-[illegible]
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-2568.
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-465-4793
Lakeshore [illegible] 3534 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
Laney College Theatre 900 Fallon St. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517
Lost Weekend [illegible] 2[illegible] Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. 510-[illegible]
Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2[illegible] Broadway, Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 3[illegible] 12th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 5000 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland. 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-[illegible]
[illegible] 579 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
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Oakland. 510-238-[illegible]
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Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-[illegible]
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Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy. Mountain View. 650-[illegible]
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St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way Berkeley. 510-848-[illegible]
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave. Berkeley. 510-[illegible]
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-841-2082.
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[illegible] UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]
White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]
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OCEANOGRAPHY

With Kelly vocals, guitar, Kathleen Richards (drums), Doug Klein (bass), and Steven Tough (keys), Oceanography is the project of self-proclaimed "bad bastard" songwriter Brian Kelly. Now on the heels of releasing a second EP, Parachutes of Plenty, Oceanography is currently playing shows in bars, clubs, speakeasies, and living rooms up and down the West Coast and is constantly working on new material.

Website
oceanographymusic.com

PERSEPHONEES BEE'S

Trying to define the Oakland-based quartet to a specific genre is a lost cause. Persephone's Bees [illegible] stuffed with Russ Meyers, Beyond the Valley of the Dolls, John Lennon and Yoko Ono's [illegible] Fantasy, the poetry of Osip Mandelstam. "Persephone's Bees" is a phrase from one of his works and most experiences. We experience.

Website
persephonesbees.com

CHURCHES

When EMA asks the question "what's it like to be small-town and gay?" in her unhinged-bright anthem "California," Caleb Nichols has an answer: it was brutal, it was beautiful and well worth singing about. Nichols, along with San Francisco/Oakland music scene vets Pat Spurgeon and [illegible] East, explores the heartache and wonder of small-town teenage alienation in the new Bay Area based outfit, CHURCHES.

Website
churchescalifornia.bandcamp.com

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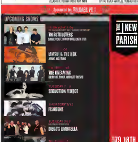

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THURSDAY 5

Academy Night w/ DJ ... and MJ Joe G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $3, Windbell free w/ ...
Dem Fever w/ Brown Bom Sound spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free
Disco Glue w/ DJs Kool Kyle & Chris Fix, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free
Delicious Thursdays Radio, 10 p.m., free
DJ Adil spinning eclectic ..., Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
DJ Gurlan The Layover, 6 p.m., free
DJ Thick spinning lounge. Last Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Dem Tea Room w/ Salvatore Valentino, Madonna Compuron & Ivy Sonic. The Layover, 10 p.m., free
Elixir w/ resident DJ Kimani and weekly guest, The Lodge, 8 p.m., $5
High Life w/ DJ Matthew Afrika, The Layover, 10 p.m., free
Haute Boogie w/ DJs Pateen, Raoi Kyle, and ... Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
KFY Kafe indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Burns Night w/ DJ Eddie T, plus Burns ... Kimball's Bar & Grill, 9 p.m., $10
Tasty ladies night w/ 4 DJs spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15
Temple of Boom w/ DJ Fluid Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free
The Get the Beat featuring DJ Spence spinning '70s & '80s hits. Forbidden Island, 8 p.m., free
Noche Gitana featuring DJs Carlos Mena and ... Beach and Bar, 8 p.m., free

FRIDAY 6

Cue Job w/ DJs Eddy Bones and His Friends spinning soul and slow jams. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free
Dem 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15
Grooving w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning ... music in the Bay Area. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5
"Deejays, Onions & Dancing" DJ Hand spinning bass-heavy fun and electro. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free
DJ Knotty The Layover, 9 p.m., free
Salvatore w/ DJ ... **The Vinyl Archaeologist** The Layover, 10 p.m.
Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $5
Friday Nite Jams w/ DJ Supe K, Fauxs, 10 p.m., $5
and ... Life DJ Spair & Mers from Outkast Riders and Max Kane from 4onafunk w/ ... spinning hip-hop, dancehall ... and old & new school. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after
Happy Hour w/ DJ Golden Grant spinning punk, rock, indie, & ... rock. The Missouri Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free
Hip-Hop Gumbo w/ Naked DJ, Club 1220, 9 p.m., $6
Latin Explosion DJ Jorge ... hosts cumbia, salsa, merengue, banda, Spanish pop, & house ... 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $6-$15
Moondance weekly ... DJ series. Amoeba Music, 7-10 p.m., free
and Soul hip-hop and funk. Radio, 9 p.m., free
Qualm Night w/ DJ ... spinning reggae, ... salsa, & R&B. Island Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free before 11:30 p.m.
Retro-Deluxe the ... '80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Sultry Fridays DJ Lush & Fat Rob host R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $10
Soulful w/ DJ Jaunt Prayers spinning northern soul, boogaloo, '60s, disco, punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room, 10 p.m., free
Vybz Inn? w/ DJs Tobe, Mosaic & Heroic spinning roots, reggae, dancehall, & soul. Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., $5
Bom Bom Fridays featuring DJ Tropic spinning afrobeat, soca, ... salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, ... Arabic Music & more. Congo Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 7

All Productions & ... DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop. Fauxs, 10 p.m., free
Dem ... w/ DJs Jerry ... & Soul Perfect spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $10
Dem ... w/ DJ Rush and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., $8 before 11 p.m.
Country Saturdays followed by hip-hop & house at midnight. Club 1220, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, $5
Dancehall Saturdays w/ African Beats spinning reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop. The Avenue, 9 p.m., free
"Deejays, Onions & Dancing" DJ hosts & special guests spinning bass-heavy fun and electro. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free
Superstar Saturday Nights w/ DJ ..., White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5
La Bom Loca Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño & ... plus hot go-go ... Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15
Magic Milk Cuties DJ ... & guests host genre-surfing extravaganza. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Pop History 101 DJs span pop hits from the Stooges to Jackson ..., Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Reggae Night Congo Lounge, 10 p.m., free
... Saturdays classic hip-hop, ... soul & world flavors. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after
Soliquest ... w/ DJ ... Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10, ...
Move-Up w/ DJ Fluid Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Missouri Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free

SUNDAY 8

DJ Hoody Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
King of Kings DJ Sacaka-One and guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & island rock. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10
Majes w/ DJ Moonlit spinning soul, funk, & Afrobeats old school. Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Polyglot DJs Amblesse, Javelin & MadMax host a weekly multi-genre exploration of musical movement. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Soul Sanctuary Online Community dance. Shoes optional. SoulSanctuaryDance.com. Ashkenaz, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., donation requested
Uptin Fist's Ska Sobage DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & roots reggae. The Totsy Club, 7 p.m., free

MONDAY 9

Three-Day Weekend DJ Protatk Earlier ... hip-hop, R&B, & ... Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Underground Lounge poetry, '80s & some '70s music. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Wanna Make Out? w/ DJ ... rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 10

Country Music Night plus line dancing, Club 1220, 8 p.m., free
DJ Isaac Deep Money spinning rock, indie, punk, new wave, & soul. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free
DJ Weedy spinning punk. Last Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Temple college night featuring DJ Speedy & DJ Nasty. Club 21, 9 p.m., free
Bis Qebo Upbo Vinyl Disco Volante, 9 p.m., free
Soul Funk DJs bass & Soul spinning reggae & world beats. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

WEDNESDAY 11

Bachata ..., 9 p.m., free
Bump Day w/ DJs Jel & Odd Element of Anticon. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
The 3:10 Set w/ DJ Santero and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
The Jump Off! Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15
Krunk Sandwich w/ DJ Roc Ting. The Layover, 9 p.m., free
Mosaic Night featuring Last Angry Manny ... vinyl and more. Merchant's Saloon, 10 p.m., free
Mouth Off open-mic poetry. Dubstep by DJ ..., AIR Lounge, 8-11 p.m.
Persuasion Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta. Bench and Bar, 7 p.m., $6-$15
Qbox Punk, indie, new wave, & classic rock w/ DJ Isaac Green. Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry open-mic and live DJ, Fauxs, 10 p.m., free ●

PICK

DJ Nuts and Forty Fivas at Brazil

Known to his incredibly ardent fanbase as the greatest Brazilian hip-hop DJ of all time, DJ Nuts is, indeed, an influential producer. He's worked with US titans Cut Chemist, J Rocc, and Madlib, backed ... crooner Gilberto Gil, and blended the guitar compositions of his friend Arthur Verocai into a seamless 70-minute mix. Nuts may rate hip-hop as his foundation, but he's also steeped in the folkloric traditions of Brazil, and capable of fusing contemporary hits with obscure samba, jazz, soul, bossa nova, *forró*, baile funk, and tropicália. His mash-ups betray an internationalist, polyglot sensibility, often with surprising results — e.g., Dr. Dre's "The Next Episode" juxtaposed with a minor-key guitar ballad, or Method Man set against a thrumming funk bassline. Even in the upper echelons of hip-hop, it's rare to hear a DJ with that level of scholarship and imagination. He'll perform alongside local record enthusiast *Forty Fivas at Brazil*, a monthly Latin dance party that features the whole panoply of Brazilian music. This special installment will also feature live congas by Henrique Padilla and mixes by resident DJs Zlan and Zamba. It'll register pretty high on the Sexta meter at Som Bar (2925 16th St., San Francisco) on Friday, July 6. 10 p.m., $10. BrazilSF.com
— *Rachel Swan*

AQUARIUM AGE

SUMMER LOOMS

For the week of July 4-10 2012

By Raffee Finn

Welcome to the first week of what is likely to be a truly endless summer — but not because we're catching the perfect wave. Quite the contrary: We're entering a period of never-ending astral intensity with all sorts of waves — physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual — breaking in uneven patterns against the shores of daily life. As these certain celestial rhythms collide with certain terrestrial agendas, there is a strong potential to be dragged under or pulled along by hidden riptides in a tumultuous sea of change. From a planetary perspective, it is that intense, but we don't need the stars to prove it. All any of us need to do is witness our own lives and the lives of those we love. Just be aware that while these seas are intense, they are not necessarily negative; their rhythm may be unpredictable, but they are deep with creative potential for personal and planetary transformation.

For starters: Happy Mars-Is-No-Longer-In Virgo Day! Mars just moved into Libra, ending its nearly eight-month sojourn through the detail-oriented Sign of Virgo. Now, as it moves through Libra, it will focus on relationships, amplifying the urge to join with significant others, personal and professional, in the hope of finding a more perfect union. For those of you not interested in romantic arrangements, this emphasis is about relationships of every variety. But don't confuse this Martian impulse toward partnering with a lack of personal ambition.

For the entire month of July, a Mars/Jupiter trine stirs a deep desire for success. Jupiter, the planet of expansion, is in Gemini, the Sign of communication, and its positive alliance with Mars guarantees lots of talk about what's necessary for effective partnerships. Even the taciturn transform into eloquent raconteurs, as a Mercury/Uranus trine, with its potential for revolutionary thinking, amplifies this gift for gab. And because Mercury is in Leo and Uranus is in Aries, most of these exchanges are likely to be fiery and passionate. Be aware: Uranus goes retrograde on July 13, and Mercury goes retrograde on July 14. Yes, this is as intense as it sounds; read more about it next week. This week, make sure you back up everything on your electronic devices.

As the week unfolds, try not to succumb to "compassion fatigue" — a psychic state created by the recognition of just how much suffering exists in the world, and the consequent reduction of concern. Aung San Suu Kyi recently described this state in her Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech that she delivered 21 years after the prize was awarded. She also said that while she was under house arrest, "the lesson of kindness, small or big," convinced her "that there could never be enough of it in the world." These are such necessary words for those who choose compassion as an antidote to the violence and cruelty of ignorance. Given the blaring and seemingly endless conflicts we encounter everyday everywhere, compassion fatigue surrounds us. Rather than succumb to what may be the most profound heart disease of our time, renew your efforts to reach out to your fellow travelers and offer shelter from the storm. According to Aung San Suu Kyi, "Kindness can change the lives of people."

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Go easy with all your relations, and rather than insist that others meet your needs for safety and security, investigate what you can do to create a better sense of internal tranquility.

TAURUS Mars stimulates openings that could manifest as job opportunities or chances to be of service within your community. Seize the moment, and you'll feel a deep sense of personal satisfaction.

GEMINI Be confident about your endeavors, but also be humble in the face of all the information you need to gather. Striking just the right balance will take a little bit of time, but you'll eventually find your equilibrium.

CANCER Feel your feet on the ground, and take as many deep breaths as necessary to feel centered and stable. Once you feel steady, you'll have the requisite strength to handle the situation with skill.

LEO You're holding forth about every subject imaginable and most of what you have to say is quite entertaining. Allow yourself to bask in the glow of appreciation, but remember to beam the love light back at your audience.

VIRGO Mars provides the potential to make real tangible progress toward better financial security. Aim your ambition at creating stability, and your efforts will engender positive results.

LIBRA Mars places you in the leadership position, and you're more than prepared to assume this role. For the last eight months you've been deeply internal, gathering the necessary wisdom to embrace this phase.

SCORPIO You're molting — and while you may feel slightly out of season, shedding your old skin and growing a new one is completely appropriate for this phase of your personal process.

SAGITTARIUS In spite of the very real threat of being overwhelmed by the intensity, you're in a vibrant, convivial mood. Allow interactions with strangers as well as significant others to bolster your spirit.

CAPRICORN Whether it's a raise, a promotion or recognition for service well done, the spotlight is on your accomplishments. Acknowledge the attention with grace and gratitude.

AQUARIUS Just be all you, all the time, and allow candid conversations with significant others, personal as well as professional, to renew your faith in and commitment to your creative process.

PISCES Mars accelerates the next phase of transformation, but this could resemble a hurricane of change. Relax into this process, and you'll find it much easier to handle the waves. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9284, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquarianAge.com or e-mail Raffee@AquarianAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn

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Aida Opera August 8th Dates

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NOTICE OF BULK SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a bulk sale is about to be made by K & H Sales, Inc. (the "Seller"), whose business addresses are as follows:

K & H Sales, Inc
1800 Williams Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

K & H Sales, Inc
135 Aviation Way, Unit 10
Watsonville, CA 95076

K & H Sales, Inc
1136 Suncast Lane, Suite 5
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

The Seller has not used any other business names or business addresses within the last three years.

The sale will be made to DoALL Company (the "Buyer"), whose business address is:

DoALL Company
1480 S. Wolf Road
Wheeling, IL 60090

The assets to be sold are located at the above listed addresses for the Seller and consist of inventory, cabinets, shelving units, cabinets for consigned inventory and fixed assets, including capital equipment.

The anticipated date and place of the bulk sale are July 9, 2012 at 1800 Williams Street, San Leandro, CA 94577

This bulk sale is subject to California Commercial Code § 6106.2. The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is:

Stephanie Hurst
Mayer Brown LLP 350 South Grand Avenue, 25th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071

The last date to file claims is July 6, 2012.

TO ALL PATIENTS AND FORMER PATIENTS OF GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY HEALTH
formerly known as PLANNED PARENTHOOD GOLDEN GATE
Re: Golden Gate Community Health, Case No. 11-31703 DM
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, N.D.CA

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Golden Gate Community Health, formerly known as Planned Parenthood Golden Gate (collectively "GGCH") ceased its operations on February 28, 2011 and filed for bankruptcy on May 2, 2011. GGCH operated health centers at the following locations: (a) 815 Eddy Street, San Francisco, CA; (b) 2211 Palm Avenue, San Mateo, CA; (c) 2 H Street, San Rafael, CA; (d) 482 West MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, CA; (e) Eastmont Mall, 7200 Bancroft Avenue, Suite 210, Oakland, CA; (f) 1370 Medical Center Drive, Rohnert Park, CA; (g) 1866 B Street, Hayward, CA; (h) 1250 Hopkins Avenue, Redwood City, CA; (i) Good Samaritan Health Center, 1294 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA; and (j) Novato Youth Center, 1767 Grant Avenue, Novato, CA. IF YOU WERE a GGCH PATIENT you or your current health care provider may request a copy of your medical records by submitting a written request for your medical records. You may download an Authorization for Release of Medical Records ("ARMR") from GGCH at www.ggch2012.com. Please submit the completed, signed ARMR to GGCH Patient Records at:

GGCH–Patient Records
2370 Market Street, PMB 512 San Francisco, CA 94114
-or- Fax: (415) 373-4466
-or- Email: ggch2012@gmail.com

Please read and fill out the form carefully. If you have any questions, please contact us via email at ggch2012@gmail.com or telephone (415) 518-5716.
IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A COPY OF YOUR PATIENT RECORDS ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2013, GGCH will request that the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the California Department of Health and Human Services take possession of your medical records. However, these agencies are not obligated to do so and you should not assume that they will. If these agencies decline to take possession of and responsibility for the records, the patient medical records will be destroyed pursuant to Order of the Bankruptcy Court.

SAVAGE LOVE

SCROTUM STRETCHIN'

Plus death grips and college hookups.

By Dan Savage

I'm a straight guy and I'm really into having my balls sucked — it's one of my favorite things and just thinking about it turns me on. But whenever I've had my balls sucked it hurts, and ball pain is not a kink of mine! It hurts enough to override any pleasure, and I have to tell my partner to stop. Is this normal? Does ball-sucking hurt for everyone? Is there something I can do to make it less painful?

She Can't Roughly Osculate Trouser Eggs

The next time you find yourself in an argument with a proponent of "intelligent design," lay this one on 'em. There's this muscle called the cremaster that attaches a man's balls to his abdominal muscles. When a man is cold, the cremaster contracts, lifting his balls toward his body so those little darlings stay nice and warm. When he's hot, the cremaster relaxes, dropping his balls away from his body, keeping the little darlings cool. Putting this in language the average "intelligent design" proponent can understand: Your cremaster is Goldilocks and your nuts are a delicious-looking bowl of sperm-cell porridge. Cremasterlocks doesn't like sperm-cell porridge that's too hot. Cremasterlocks doesn't like sperm-cell porridge that's too cold. Cremasterlocks likes sperm-cell porridge that's just right.

And here's the proof that humans evolved over eons through a random and directionless process of spontaneous mutation and natural selection: Our cremaster muscles don't just contract when we're cold, they also contract when we're aroused. So the better it feels to have your balls sucked, the more turned on you get. The more turned on you get, the more your cremaster contracts. And the more your cremaster contracts, the more it hurts to have your balls sucked! You can call a system like that a lot of things — crazy, painful, deeply ironic — but it can't be called "intelligently designed."

So the problem here isn't ball pain, it's muscle strain. And there is something you can do about that. "This guy should get himself a set of short ball stretchers," said Stephen "Ox" Lane of OxBalls.com, an online sex shop that specializes in toys for men. "We have a good selection of ball stretchers, most made of silicone so they are nice and soft. He should get in the tub, soak in warm water, and let his sack relax and sag. Then gently put one ring on. Then he can play with his balls for a while, stroking them and his dick, and if everything is feeling good, add another ring."

At least for now, though, Lane doesn't recommend that you leave the ball stretchers on when you come. "His balls will pull up as he's getting ready to shoot, and that may cause pain," said Lane. "For the time being, he should use his ball stretchers as a warm-up. Over time, his balls will get used to the feeling and his sack will stretch." And not just your sack, but your cremaster, too. And a slightly looser, more elastic cremaster will mean less painful ball-sucking. Good luck!

Here is my question for you, Mr. Savage. My girlfriend and I are sexually active, and I can get an erection in the beginning, a fully hard erection, but a few minutes into intercourse, I start to lose my erection. I can get my erection back if I allow my girlfriend to use her hand on it for a while. And then when I penetrate her again, I lose my erection again. I grab it pretty hard, I have to admit, and when my girlfriend uses her hand, I ask her to grab it really hard too. I'm writing to ask if you think the reason I can't keep an erection during intercourse has something to do with how hard I have her use her hand and how hard I use my hand?

Having A Real Dilemma

The way you grip your dick when you beat off? And the way you allow your girlfriend to grip your dick? No more gripping your dick like that. From now on, whenever you masturbate, you're going to jerk it with a light touch and few drops of lube. And if you can't come using that lighter touch and a few drops of lube, then you don't come. At least for now.

Basically, you gotta cut your dick off. Um, let me rephrase that: You gotta stop serving up the kind of stimulation your dick has come to expect — the death grip — because the only way your dick will ever come to appreciate the subtler and damper sensations that vaginas provide is if you give your dick no choice. Give your dick what it's used to, and your dick will be forever dependent on it. Drive your dick (and yourself) to desperation, and your dick will find new ways to get off. Your dick will adapt.

You can help your dick adapt faster by stirring some other forms of physical and mental stimulation into the mix. Talk dirty, do some nipple play (I'm talking about your nipples), and explore different scenarios that turn you on (girlfriend calls the shots? Do it outside?) all the while experimenting with different positions that might provide you with a slightly snugger fit (girl on top, doggy style, etc.). Good luck!

I'm an eighteen-year-old male about to head off to college in the fall. I'm not the best looking guy — skinny, pale, some acne — and I'm afraid that I'm going to be one of those college freshmen who aren't getting laid. What can I do to help make my potential college sex life better? I'm a smooth-talking guy in some ways, Mr. Dan, but it doesn't work a majority of the time and I don't understand why.

College-Bound Boy

First, CBB: "it" doesn't work for a majority of the people a majority of the time.

It doesn't matter how smooth a guy's talk is, how tight his abs are, or how fat his wallet is, most of the people he meets won't wanna sleep with him. I'm not going to lie to you: Smooth talk, tight abs, and a fat wallet improve a guy's odds considerably. But for reasons that run the gamut from religious to logistic to simple miscommunication, most people won't want to fuck a given person, however smooth, tight, fat, etc.

The trick is to keep working it — to keep looking around — until you find someone who does want to fuck you. And there will be plenty of skinny, pale, and spotty girls at your school, as well as girls who can see past those things. Your odds will be better if you can look past 'em too. ●

Find the *Savage Lovecast* (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage

mail@savagelove.net

Trustee Sale No. 20120015001494 Title Order No. 120084161 FHA/VA/PMI No.: NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 07/12/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC., as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 07/19/2007 as Instrument No. 2007[illegible] of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: CAROLYN SILAS SAMS, A MARRIED WOMAN AND CAROLYN SILAS-SAMS AS TRUSTEE OF THE REAL PROPERTY TRUST, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 07/12/2012 TIME OF SALE: [illegible]:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: SCOTTISH RITE CENTER, 1547 LAKESIDE DRIVE OAKLAND, CA 94612. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1072 30TH ST, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608 APN#: [illegible]-0465-024 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $243,805.84. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.auction.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 20120015001494. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM, LLC [illegible] ONE MAUCHLY IRVINE, CA 92618 800-280-2832 www.auction.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 06/18/2012 P958928 6/20, 6/27, 07/04/2012

Trustee Sale No. 12-00016-5 Loan No. 0031202363 APN 049-1546-035-00 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/7/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 7/12/2012, at 09:00 AM, Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612, 3rd Floor Lodge/Banquet Room, Power Default Services, Inc., as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on 08/11/2006, as Instrument No. 2006308317 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, CA, executed by: SEON HWA NEAL, A MARRIED WOMAN AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY, as Trustor, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC., AS NOMINEE FOR AMERICAN BROKERS CONDUIT as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1371 40TH STREET UNIT 5306, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining unpaid balance of the obligation(s) secured by and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust (together with any modifications thereto). NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-800-280-2832 or visit this Internet Web site www.auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 12-00016-5. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $460,521.55. Estimate only, provided however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. DATE: 6/11/2012 POWER DEFAULT SERVICES, INC. Trustee By: Fidelity National Title Company, Agent 11000 Olson Drive Ste 101 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, 916-636-0114 By: Megal Curtis, Authorized Signature SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.auction.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 1-800-280-2832 P953746 6/20, 6/27, 07/04/2012

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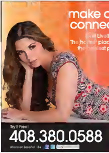
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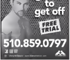

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 12-0024199 Doc ID #0001709196272005N Title Order No. 12-0046652 Investor/Insurer No. 170919627 APN No. 049-1542-045 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 07/09/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by FEKERTE BEZUAYEHU, A SINGLE WOMAN AND LULIT BEZUAYEHU, A SINGLE WOMAN, dated 07/09/2007 and recorded 7/17/2007, as Instrument No. 2007261176, in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 07/25/2012 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be 43 LOOP DRIVE, EMERYVILLE, CA 946082543. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $595,943.92. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. If required by the provisions of section 2923.5 of the California Civil Code, the declaration from the mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent is attached to the Notice of Trustee's Sale duly recorded with the appropriate County Recorder's Office. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on a property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-800-281-8219 or visit this Internet Web site www.recontrustco.com, using the file number assigned to this case TS No. 12-0024199. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281-8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. A-4251938 06/27/2012, 07/04/2012, 07/11/2012

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To advertise on the Bulletin Board call 510-879-3800 Deadline is Monday 4pm

Discount MedPros
GRAND OPENING SPECIAL! New Patients And Renewals $50 (with this ad)
[illegible] 1941 Jackson Street, Suite 21 Oakland, CA 94612

cultivate
wellness

up to 40 Strains of Clones and 100 Seeds available everyday

Oakland retail boutique
NOW OPEN!
Showcasing the finest cannabis accessories.

1840 Embarcadero, Oakland • (510) 533-0146
2106 Ringwood Ave, San Jose • (408) 321-8424
10AM – 8PM • 7 days/week
harborsidehealthcenter.com

No Hormones, No Condoms
Study invites couples to test experimental contraceptive gel Earn up to $700 + free supplies 800-300-5767/ testmethods.org

Mystic Herbal Body Care Shop
We will Melt Away your Stress & Pain with Topical Cannabis Body Butter & Oils. Experience Cannabis Cupping & Massage Therapy today!
Call for appointment
510 689-6101

Earth Circles Counseling Center
Compassionate, Professional Therapists. Sliding Scale.
Call 510-601-1929.
www.EarthCirclesCounseling.com

Crisis Support Services of Alameda County
Needs volunteers to answer our 24 hour crisis lines. No experience necessary - we train. Call for more details
510-550-8240

BACK TO THE CLASSICS
staygreen
WHITE WIDOW
20.53% THC
ORGANIC
CONVENIENT DELIVERY
BUBBA KUSH
18.16% THC
STAYGREEN.ORG
510.574.7074

NOW OPEN!
VALLEJO 420 MD
MEDICAL MARIJUANA EVALUATIONS
RENEWAL FROM ANY DOCTOR **$55**
NEW PATIENTS **$65**
- PHYSICIAN OWNED & OPERATED
- RECOMMENDATIONS ARE VALID FOR PATIENTS WHO QUALIFY
- IF YOU DON'T QUALIFY YOU DON'T PAY!

432 TENNESSEE ST. VALLEJO 94590 • MON-SAT 10AM-6PM
CALL TODAY!! (707) 644-1667
WALK-INS WELCOME ALL DAY EVERYDAY!

A Health Care Revolution!
Unique membership model

Members-only rates:

Initial Visit & Exam	$ 28
Acupuncture	$ 14
Chiropractic	$ 14
Massage	$ 19
Naturopathy	$ 39

"This place changed my life!"
Kari R. Oakland

Lolo Health Center
LoloCenter.com | (510) 533-3222
Limited memberships available
Call for tour, open house,
and [illegible] FREE
[illegible]

Award-winning health care since 2003.

Oakland 420 Evaluations
Second Location OPEN IN SAN JOSE
Prices differ depending on location
www.SJ420.com

San Jose Location at:
115 N 4th Street Suite 106
(Between St. John & St. James)
San Jose | 408.998.0980 | www.SJ420.com
Monday - Saturday 11am-7pm Sunday 12-5
We Will Match ANY Local Competitors Price
[illegible] | Walk-Ins Welcome
All evaluations done by CA Licensed MD
2833 Telegraph Ave # 109 • Oakland
Monday – Saturday 10am - 6pm
OaklandMarijuanaCenter.com
Please visit our website to book your appointment today!

$39
Expires 7/10/12
Must Bring Ad • 1 per Patient
Renewals only

Priceless Evaluations
24/7 verification - High Quality Photo Id card
Medical Marijuana evaluations
$30 New Patients and Renewals (ONLY with this ad)
All evaluations done by CA Licensed MD
415-796-2254
3490 20th St., Ste # 302
San Francisco, CA 94110